Hafa Adai!

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Taxicab hits 2 pedestrians and hurts four passengers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A taxi driver who was allegedly speeding and driving recklessly hit and seriously injured two female pedestrians and hurt his four passengers in Gualo Rai on Thursday night.

Amrita Lal Sarker, 40, was arrested for reckless driving, violating pedestrians' right of way at crosswalks, failing to exercise due care, failing to drive on the right side of the highway, and violating the speed limit.

The police report did not mention whether Sarker was injured or not. A separate report

See TAXICAB on Page 4

HANMI to assess losses due to network outage

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

» Chamber to rely on govt assessment

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be summing up the losses its member hotels have sustained from the network outage experienced on Saipan more than a week ago.

Cavanaugh

Separately, the Office of the Governor is coordinating with CNMI agencies, including the departments of Commerce and Finance and the Marianas Visitors Authority, on a damage assessment report of the

See HANMI on Page 4

'LECHON TIME'

Despite the torrential rain, one of the floats that participated in Saturday's Liberation Day parade featured a roasted pig, complete with a smoking rack of live charcoal. The parade managed to push through finally, after being twice postponed due to a passing tropical storm and typhoon.

FRAULEIN MICHELLE S. VILLANUEVA

DUE TO HIGH SEAS AND STORMS

Arrival of repair ship pushed to Thursday

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The arrival of the ship that will fix IT&E's damaged undersea fiber optic cable between Tinian and Saipan has been pushed back a day—from Wednesday to Thursday—due to high seas and storms, the telecommunications firm said yesterday.

The new date for the repair ship's arrival is this July 23.

It was originally scheduled to arrive Wednesday, July 22, after departing Taiwan at 10pm last Thursday.

When it does arrive, IT&E is expected to load the vessel with equipment and begin right away on the repair process.

IT&E has said their repair ship is a specialized vessel using jets instead of propellers to hold it in place as it inspects the fiber optic line and does repairs.

Depending on the initial investigation, identifying the "break" location, and the type of break, IT&E expects a potential 48-hour repair timeline.

Damage to the fiber optic line was not found last week by divers IT&E had

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Resembling a latte stone, Animu is the Liberation Festivities' official mascot.
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ASIA
The U.S. Pacific Fleet commander joins a surveillance flight over the South China Sea.
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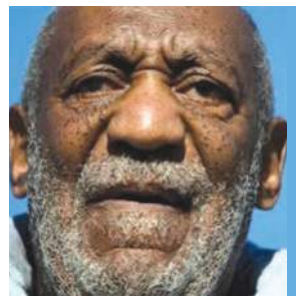

LIFE & STYLE
Bill Cosby detailed his womanizing and secrecy efforts a decade ago in a deposition.
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Local

Tinian resident questions 'socio-economic' aspect of EIS

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Tinian resident Kyle Sandbergen intends to focus on the "long-term" when submitting his comments on U.S. military's live-fire plans.

Sandenberg, who attends college in Guam, spoke to *Saipan Tribune* after a public information meeting on Tinian with Dentons, the company hired to review the military's plans.

Saying his comments would focus on "loss of culture" and what would happen to the CNMI in the long run, Sandenberg wonders if Tinian will be the same island 20 years from now.

"[Dentons] brought up the issue of cost of living [and] how that will probably increase due to restricted airspace. …I personally know of a number of people who are willing to move as far as Guam just to find jobs to support their families. What we are looking at here is a potential depopulation of the island like we've seen on the island of Rota," he said.

The 2012 Census reported a population decline of 23 percent on Rota—from 3,283 in 2000 to 2,527 in 2010.

"You can imagine how that could affect their culture, our culture. I refuse to say that our indigenous culture is a dying culture but it is definitely a struggling one," he said.

Sandbergen's said his main concern is "socio-economic."

"Will it be the same islands that we live in now, maybe 20 years from now…? How would we be able to survive with the increased cost of living on the island? Will the military address this by maybe accommodating these things, by maybe supplementing the costs of fuel, the costs of…goods?"

"…With this restricted airspace, are they going to accommodate or address the potential issues that are going to rise from the restricted airspace?" he asked.

When asked if he would like to give a message to people out there about public participation, Sandbergen noted that he is part of the younger generation and that he was looking at things "50 years" down the line.

"I want to be able to settle down here. I want to be able to say that the Tinian I bring my family to is the same Tinian that I grew up in. If this preferred alternative actually goes through, I am not sure if I can do that in the future 50 years from now, so if the people really want to do the same with their families in the future, they probably want to get on the ball and" comment on the military's plans, he said.

The public is being urged to comment on the U.S. military's live-fire proposals before Aug. 5. In their comments, the public can offer alternatives to the military's proposals.

One participant at the meeting last week said he has a farm near the boundary between civilian area and a proposed live-fire range.

"If they are shooting with the big cannon, there is no tranquility there," the man said.

In their comments, the public can ask that ranges be redesigned or moved elsewhere.

Under the military's preferred alternative, fences and gates will be built, limiting access to the northern part of the island. The public can comment on this limited access to beach sites at the northern part of the island, for example.

More information can be found at cnmieis.org. or CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com.

CELEBRATING FREEDOM JOEL PINAROC
An exuberant fireworks display lights up the night sky as part of the CNMI's Liberation Day festivities on Saturday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dormant Deposit Accounts

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2015.

Names
Lee, Hyo Jung
Guo, Wu Li
He, Yang / Han, Yu Xiang / He, Jian Zhong
Chhetri, Laxman K
Gu, Shu Fang
Hermo, Elmo Faris
Innoasset Limited
Chen, Xiao Yan
Manglona, Prudencio PB Maintenance Services
Guan, Shan Ling
Kolochko, Mikhail
Kang, Wenjun
Kim, Joo Young
Qiqihar Zhongwei Co Ltd dba Saimei Market

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2015 will be paid to the "CNMI TREASURER" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2015 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

BANK OF SAIPAN

U.S. Air Force Seeks Input on Historic Properties in Revised Divert Proposal

The U.S. Air force is asking for public comments. The Air Force requests comments on the potential effects to historic properties from the revised Divert proposal near and at Francisco C. Ada (Saipan International) Airport, Tinian International Airport, Saipan seaport, and Tinian seaport.

The Air Force previously sought input on historic properties in 2012 when it proposed to improve the Saipan and/or Tinian International Airports to accommodate training exercises and missions related to overall emergency preparedness in the Pacific. After receiving input from the CNMI government, Federal and local agencies, and community members, the Air Force has revised its proposal and is again inviting members of the public to assist in identifying potential adverse effects to historic properties.

The Air Force initially proposed building facilities and infrastructure at the Saipan and/or Tinian International Airports to support a combination of military cargo, fighter, and tanker aircraft and associated support personnel for diverted aircraft landings, joint military exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. Although the mission remains the same, the Air Force has revised its proposal to no longer include fighter aircraft; to decrease the extent of airport improvements; and to dramatically reduce the number of planned operations from 1,920 take-offs and landings to 720. As a result of these changes, the Air Force has developed three modified alternatives that include a reduced level of development at Saipan and Tinian.

With the proposed revisions to the Divert Activities and Exercises undertaking, the Air Force is revisiting the potential for adverse effects to historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Air Force will conduct open house public outreach meetings on Saipan and Tinian to discuss the revised undertaking and seek public input on historic property identification, traditional cultural properties, and potential effects on historic properties. The public outreach meetings will be held at the following dates, times and locations:

- Tinian: Friday, July 24, 2015; 4:30 – 7:30pm; Tinian Elementary School, San Jose.
- Saipan: Saturday, July 25, 2015; 1:30 – 4:30pm; Saipan Multipurpose Center, Susupe.

Written and verbal comments related to historic properties will be accepted at the meetings. Interested individuals may also request to join the consultation process as an interested party. Those with interest in or information pertaining to the historic properties within the areas of potential effect are encouraged to submit comments to PACAF Public Affairs (ATTN: PACAF Divert Section 106 Consultation). 25 E Street, Suite G-108, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96253, or by email at pacaf.paops@us.af.mil. Comments will also be accepted on the project website at www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

No confirmation yet if casino will open this Sunday

There has been no confirmation yet if Best Sunshine International, Ltd. will open its "live training facility" this weekend at the T Galleria.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said last week that BSI is looking to open the casino "this month." He confirmed that the facility now has gaming machines.

A source, requesting anonymity, said the casino will open on Sunday.

BSI put out a full-page ad yesterday in the *Saipan Tribune*, saying the "Best Sunshine Live casino offers state-of-the-art facilities." It did not specify an opening date.

Commission chair Juan Sablan said as far as he knows, BSI has yet to give an advisory on the casino opening.

The commission will have a meeting this Friday, but Sablan declined did not say if the casino opening is on the agenda.

Saipan Tribune tried contacting BSI but was not able to get a confirmation on the supposed opening.

BSI earlier said the opening date for the casino is a "moving target."

According to Mark Brown, CEO of BSI, the company has about 150 employees.

"In terms of number of employees, we're pushing 150 employees right now locally in our building," Brown said, adding that the firm is "outgrowing our building, and every Monday it seems there are 30 or 40 more people are coming in."

He said BSI has already hired a local firm to handle visa processing as well as someone to take care of purchases. ***(Joel D. Pinaroc)***

Audit says transfer of $46M from autonomous agencies unrecorded

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The transfer of $46 million receivables from autonomous agencies to the CNMI has not been recorded as of Sept. 30, 2014, according to the Commonwealth's audit for fiscal year 2014.

The Deloitte and Touche LLC audit shows that no written document supported the transfer.

» Deloitte says effect is possible unrecorded receivables

» Finance Secretary Larson says work is currently underway

In the government's response and corrective action plan, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said the CNMI will establish policies and procedures to identify, record, and reconcile valid receivables.

Larson said work is currently underway to not only identify the receivables owed by this transfer, but also collect on these receivables.

Deloitte said a section of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action assigns the CNMI rights to collect deficient employer defined benefit contributions and related costs as of Aug. 6, 2013, from autonomous agencies.

Deloitte said that, as of Sept. 30, 2014, the NMI Retirement Fund confirmed such transfer of $46,051,656 in receivables, but the CNMI has not obtained details of these receivables and has not accessed collectability.

Deloitte said no audit adjustment was proposed due to the uncertainty of collection.

The auditing firm determined that the cause of such condition is the lack of established policies and procedures to identify, record, and reconcile valid receivables and the lack of written documentation supporting the transfer of receivables.

The effect of this condition, Deloitte pointed out, is possible unrecorded receivables.

Deloitte recommends that policies and procedures be established to identify, record, and reconcile valid receivables.

Deloitte further recommends coordination with NMI Retirement Fund to document the transfer.

Audit report for NMI govt now out

The Office of the Governor will start reviewing a government-wide audit report conducted by Deloitte & Touche.

In a letter to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the audit firm said the report is "on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with government auditing standards" in the United States.

The audit covers "financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the CNMI as of, and for the year Sept. 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the CNMI's basic financial statements."

The report was dated July 17.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco confirmed that the Office of the Governor has received the audit report and will start reviewing it.

He said Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who is still on vacation in Seattle, will be informed of the audit report.

Deloitte & Touche added that "for purposes of this report, our consideration of internal control over financial reporting and our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, and other matters did not include the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp."

The audit firm said the report also included the CNMI's responses to its findings.

"The CNMI's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on them."

It added that the purpose of the report is "solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of the that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance." ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

CPA to inform FAA of complaints on jet noise in residential areas

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will pass on to the Federal Aviation Administration public complaints over the jet noise caused by airlines flying over residential areas on their way to Japan or Korea, says CPA board member Barrie Toves.

Toves chairs CPA's airport facilities committee.

During the public comment period of their meeting last week, CPA heard from Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo about jet noise in residential areas in the Laolao, Papago, and San Vicente areas.

Govendo said when a Delta Air Lines plane turns left over Papago, as does Asiana Airlines, the "noise racket is unbelievable."

Govendo asked why it was not possible to tell airlines to stay on the east side of Saipan until they cross the northern tip of the island before they make their left turn to Japan or Korea.

"Why turn over land? It is noisy and dangerous," he said.

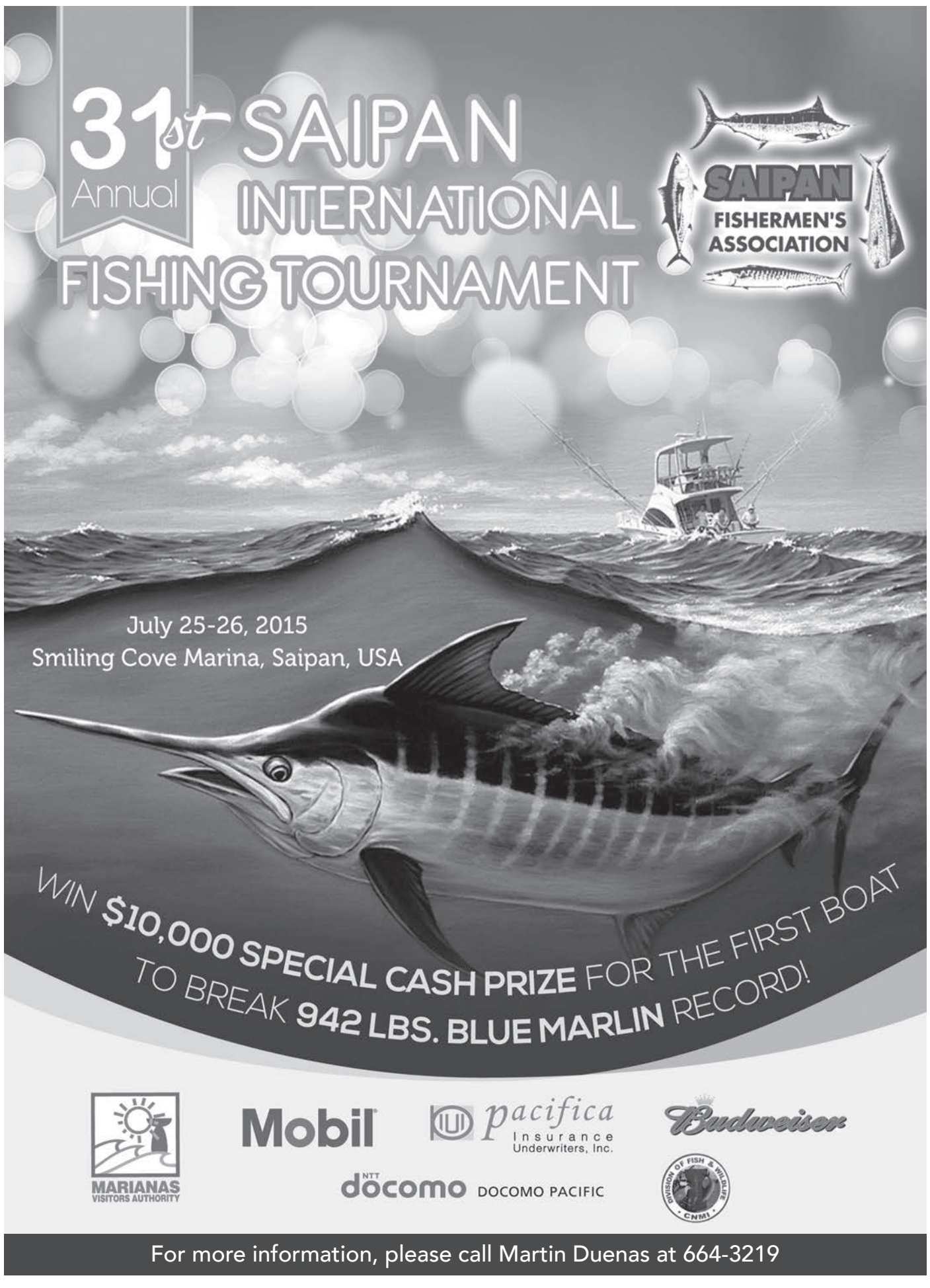
He said staying over water until they cross the northern part of Saipan and then making their left turn "would save everyone a lot of aggravation."

Board director Roman Tudela said the board would look into the matter.

He said it used to be that an aircraft has to fly three miles out before making a left turn, but recently he has noticed on many occasions that they take an almost immediate left.

The CPA board tasked their airport facilities committee to contact the FAA to find out what the correct procedure on flight paths is.

"We are going to pass on the complaint to the FAA and find out what we can do to instruct these airlines to follow a certain flight path to avoid flying over residential areas "because those big jets are creating a lot of disturbances and people are just not comfortable with the noise," Toves told reporters after board discussion.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IT&E: There's no monopoly

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Despite IT&E currently being the sole Internet provider to the CNMI for years now, the telecommunications company says it is not running a monopoly on the islands.

According to PTI chief executive officer James Oehlerking, "there's no monopoly."

Guam-based PTI is the parent company of IT&E.

"There were numerous talks and we responded to 'IT&E's monopoly.' We don't have a monopoly. Anybody can come in here and compete," he added.

Oehlerking added that investors eyeing the CNMI can in come anytime.

"It's a question of them wanting to make an investment and participate in the market like IT&E has for 35 years. There's nothing new up here. If they're interested they can come here anytime," Oehlerking said in a recent interview.

He also pointed out that they are providing service to other telecoms in the CNMI such as iConnect and Docomo.

When asked if it's possible for the CNMI to have multiple fiber optic cable connections like Guam, Oehlerking said it's not easy.

"Guam is much more of a through-point in the middle of the Pacific so there are multiple cables that pass through Guam," Oehlerking said. "Guam over the years has been set up as a through point. It's not easy to change routes or just say let's go through Saipan en route to say, Taiwan or China."

Last Friday, the same question was raised at a presentation by Dan Tydingco, executive vice president for external and legal affairs of GTA, for CNMI lawmakers on Capital Hill.

Tydingco described the CNMI's connection as "single-threaded." He said it may be for the lawmakers and the CNMI government to determine if the Commonwealth needs another system.

After the CNMI-wide network outage more than a week ago, Internet capacity is still not at 100 percent as connections are relying on backup systems until the fiber optic cable will be repaired once the repair ship arrives this week.

Oehlerking said they will take another look at their entire system once the repairs are done.

"After we're done with all this, both on the fiber and other alternatives, we're going to relook at our whole communication structure [on] Saipan and back to Guam and see what changes could be made to improve it," Oehlerking said.

Criminal cases, civil actions delayed by Internet problem

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

In just one business day, at least two criminal cases and two civil actions in federal court have been delayed due to ongoing Internet-related issues.

Lawyers representing parties in four cases on Friday requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI for extension of deadlines and filing of documents.

According to court documents, in the criminal case against Melvin G. Ada, the defendant's counsel, Colin M. Thompson, and the prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe, both requested the court to allow Ada to file his objections to the U.S. of Probation Office's presentence report by Sept. 3, 2015, and reset the sentencing hearing to Oct. 9, 2015.

Thompson and Backe said, among other factors, Thompson's law office has been unable to access the Internet in a manner that would permit the defense to research certain issues raised by the presentence report.

In the criminal case against Vincent M. Songsong, attorney Thompson, counsel for the defendant, and Backe asked the court to set a new trial date for Dec. 1, 2015, instead of Sept. 1, 2015.

Thompson and Backe said, among other factors, the ongoing Internet-related issues have caused communications problem with Songsong's expert witness.

In Cecilia U. Flores' civil lawsuit, her counsel, Juan T. Lizama, and attorney Marcia K. Schultz, counsel for the MUFG Union Bank, asked the court to deem as timely filed Flores' filing of opposition to the bank's motion for removal of the case to federal court.

The parties agreed that Lizama contacted Union Bank's counsel on Friday afternoon to advise that he was unable to complete and file the opposition because of the lack of Internet and communications in the CNMI since July 8.

In Yu Xuan's civil case, Yuan's counsel, Mark B. Hanson, and attorney Samuel Mok, counsel for defendants, both requested to modify the case management scheduling order.

Hanson and Mok cited, among other factors, unforeseen circumstances beyond their control caused by the recent state of emergency declared in the CNMI as a result of Internet service and reliable telephone service that has severely impeded their ability to conduct legal research.

BSI JOINS PARADE
Employees of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. wave to the crowd during Saturday's Liberation Day parade.
JAYSON CAMACHO

ARRIVAL

From Page 1

hired to inspect the line. Dives ceased on Wednesday.

Because of this, damage to the line is said to be much deeper than what can be inspected from a surface dive.

'Split line'

While responding to user complaints about "slow speeds experience," IT&E said they found that some residential and commercial users—with only single DSL connections—have actually been "splitting" their line and connecting more than the recommended number of users per DSL line.

"Such practice is not allowed and is detrimental to the overall experience of all users, with or without the undersea cable issue," IT&E said in a statement yesterday.

On Friday, IT&E announced that the CNMI's 4G network had been restored under limited capacity. This continued yesterday.

IT&E continues to advise the public to maximize their Internet experience by connecting directly to their router but limit users to one at a time; turn off streaming and gaming; log off and disconnect completely when finished using the Internet; and use Internet only for information and basic communication.

Almost two weeks ago, damage to IT&E's fiber optic line caused a massive network communications outage in the CNMI.

HANMI

From Page 1

ongoing Internet outage.

According to press secretary Ivan Blanco, the priority of the government right now is the restoration of Internet services.

He said service provider IT&E is providing the government with regular updates. As of the latest report, a repair vessel coming out of Taiwan is expected to arrive on island on Thursday.

"We are coordinating with the agencies doing the report, but we hope to have the reports after everything's restored," Blanco said.

According to HANMI chair Gloria Cavanaugh, "we haven't been able to take a poll. I think that the biggest loss was with the credit cards."

Cavanaugh, who is also the general manager of Mariana Resort and Spa, said that about 60 percent of their hotels' clients use credit cards.

Aside from getting their credit cards back up and running as early as Thursday, Cavanaugh said Mariana Resort got lucky.

"As far as people go, I'm not so sure how everyone else fared, but with Mariana Resort we have a negative one room. One room, one night," she said.

Despite cancellations, they weren't much affected.

"Those that were coming in that got cancelled…was negated by those who had to stay," Cavanaugh said.

Cavanaugh said that Homeland Security and Emergency Management also asked them to do assessment on the loss because there was a typhoon at the time.

However, she said it will be hard to do things manually without better Internet connections.

"We'll wait until the Internet gets up," she said.

Chamber not assessing

The Chamber of Commerce, on the other hand, said it will not assess the losses sustained by its member businesses.

"That's up to the government to determine. I'm sure individual businesses will take up their losses with IT&E if they want to. That's their prerogative," Chamber president Alex Sablan said.

Sablan added that what happened was an act of God, but despite this, IT&E still has to have a backup ready.

"It is an act of God. The cable broke, we got to deal with that, but we got to get redundancy up and the system hardened so that this doesn't occur again," Sablan said.

"We're hoping that this doesn't ever occur again because this is very scary for the entire community," he added.

Finance Secretary Larissa Larson said there is no estimate yet—in monetary terms—of the damages but her department and other CNMI departments "are on top of it."

Larson earlier said her department will soon formalize a request for "credit" from IT&E.

"We do feel that the disruptions to the Department of Commerce and to our department warrants it," Larson said.

The call for the service provider to possibly offer compensation to the CNMI has since then gained support.

Attorney General Edward Manibusa, said people "need to be compensated in one way or another."

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) earlier said he is supporting the call, adding that credit should not just be given to government, but also to private business and members of the community. ***(With Joel Pinaroc)***

TAXICAB

From Page 1

from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, however, indicated that Sarker was treated and taken to the Commonwealth Health Center as well.

The two pedestrians—Li Chen and Zhao Hong Li—were admitted at CHC for further observation and treatment, according to police traffic investigator Adrian T. Mendiola.

Quoting a CHC physician, Mendiola said Chen is in critical condition and is awaiting medical evacuation. In a report he prepared Friday, Mendiola said that Chen sustained a laceration on the head, broken thigh bones on both legs, and had blood in the left lung.

The other pedestrian, Li, sustained a laceration on the head and bruises on the left leg, Mendiola said.

The four cab passengers—all of whom are tourists—were treated for minor injuries at CHC and later released.

The front passenger, Kai Rong Gao, had abrasions on the face, while Jan Guang Lui, the right rear passenger, had abrasions on the right ankle and lower left leg.

Fang Guo, the rear center passenger, had abrasions on the right ankle, while the left rear passenger, Rui Ting Zeng, had a contusion on the forehead and abrasions on the face.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $10,000 cash bail on Sarker and set the preliminary hearing for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Sarker.

The silver 2008 Toyota Camry, with license plate TAXI-1832, had extensive damage on the front section after hitting a concrete gatepost near the main entrance of the Eucon International University.

Mendiola said when police officer Daniel Smith responded to the incident at 9:20pm, he found the car at its final resting place at the main entrance of the school along Chalan Pale Arnold.

Smith saw two women lying on the pavement adjacent to the right side of the car. North of the car near the eastern wall of the school gate were two couples who were among the four passengers of the cab. The couples appeared to be in pain.

Medics brought all six victims to CHC.

Through a translator, passenger Gao stated that Sarker was driving fast and that he became worried as they were approaching the pedestrian crosswalk.

Gao said that Sarker did not use his brakes as they approached the crosswalk and just turned right to avoid hitting the two crossing pedestrians.

The car shot to the grassy area and then hit the concrete gatepost.

Gao said he believes that Sarker was driving above 70 kilometers per hour (about 43.49 miles per hour).

Mendiola said that based on his investigation at the scene, there were no skid marks at the shoulder of the road.

Mendiola said about 15 feet from the pedestrian sign post were two tire tracks that stretched about 100 feet to the concrete gate post.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said yesterday that medics were dispatched at 9:21pm after they received a 911 call about the accident.

Gersonde said the medics came upon seven patients and that triage was used to determine the severity of their injuries.

Gersonde said medics applied cervical collars and used backboards to immobilize all seven patients. They were then brought to CHC.

Govt, DPL urged to negotiate lease for Kan Pacific

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has pre-filed a House resolution to urge the Inos administration and the Department of Public Lands to negotiate with Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. on a new land lease for Marianas Resort and Spa.

Kan Pacific is the owner of Mariana Resort and Spa, which has an expiring lease on 2018.

The company has asked the DPL to continue its lease and has committed some $75 million in additional investments to the CNMI.

But DPL earlier said it will issue a request for proposals for all expiring public land leases and solicit globally competitive bids. The agency said the Office of the Governor supports the issuance of the RFPs.

Sablan said House Resolution 19-26 "respectfully requests" that negotiations be held for Mariana Resort and Spa instead of issuing an RFP.

Sablan stressed that he is not against the issuance of the RFP, but is merely asking that due consideration be given to the resort.

"About 91 percent of 150 employees (or 137) are local. So I hope this can be a consideration if we are looking into the 'betterment' of the CNMI," Sablan said.

Official statement?

Sablan is also asking if the Inos administration has an official statement on the leases.

"We hope that we can get an official statement if indeed this is the position of the government," Sablan said.

He also recommends that a public hearing be held regarding the call for an RFP—instead of a lease extension—so that "we will know what the people really think,"

"Again, I'm not against the RFP for getting top dollar for the value of CNMI lands, but sometimes it's more than just the dollar value that we need to consider," Sablan said.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh earlier said that "what DPL is doing now [regarding the expiring leases] is a gamble."

Cavanagh, who is also the general manager of Mariana Resort and Spa, said the DPL position on the expiring public land leases "affects all five of our [HANMI] members."

"The risk of these big five leaving because of this policy is akin to economic recklessness," Cavanagh said.

Aside from Mariana Resort, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, whose leases are expiring from three to 10 years from now, also received a letter from DPL regarding their expression of interest to extend their current leasehold.

Cavanagh also said HANMI sent a letter to Gov. Eloy S. Inos before he went on leave. The letter, dated July 2, requested Inos "to revisit the position taken by the DPL secretary and thereupon to reconsider the same." ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Noni company eyes lands around the Saipan airport

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Huang She Corp. is looking at lands around the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to plant noni trees and spoke to the Commonwealth Ports Authority about it last week.

The company is looking for 30.5 hectares, or 3,000 square meters of property.

The company has been operating in the CNMI for more than 12 years. They produce and package the Tinian hot pepper products popular on the islands.

"The fruits that come from the noni trees, we will harvest them and transfer them to the noni factory, which is behind the Nauru Building [Marianas Business Plaza] in Susupe," said Vincent Torres, who spoke on behalf of the company.

Torres said the company's main goal is to sell noni products in mainland China and the United States.

Torres said the company has planted over 8,000 noni trees and are looking to transplant them as soon as possible.

He said the company is looking to lease the areas not being used around the airport for 25 years plus a 15-year option to renew.

"One of main purposes of CPA is to generate income, and I believe by using these unused properties, CPA will not only be generating income but helping the economy of the CNMI. Employees will be hired and taxes will be paid out these properties," said Torres, who added they are also working with the Department of Public Lands for areas feasible for noni trees.

Board director Roman Tudela replied that CPA would have to abide with approach and takeoff zones that prohibit infrastructure near the airport. He asked if buildings would be erected in granting the lease, and asked if they have also looked at private properties.

Torres said the company would comply with Federal Aviation Administration rules and include this in the lease.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama asked if their interest would be downsized significantly if FAA came back and said no to activities within the "safety zones" near the airport.

Torres said they will lease "whichever area is available and is not being used" and is FAA-approved. Torres, when asked further, said they are willing to lease "piecemeal" portions of property around the airport.

At end of their discussion, the board gave conditional approval to the company's request, provided the airport facilities committee and CPA staff and legal counsel meet with the company and Torres and incorporate the concerns into a lease agreement for approval at their next board meeting.

'RAINING ON MY PARADE' JAYSON CAMACHO
Despite the torrential rain, hordes of people still lined up along Beach Road to witness Saturday's oft-postponed Liberation Day parade. The parade was postponed twice due to the threat of approaching typhoons.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Accountant I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 30/01 - $22,576.96 to PL 30/05 - $27, 437.44 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the disqualification of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2015**, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than July 30, 2015, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For all inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Appliance Technician I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 21/01 - $15, 105.87 to PL 21/09 - $22, 302.94 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Loan Specialist I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 26/01 - $18,584.00 to PL 26/07 - $24, 889.35 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Women in the Know: Theresa Rose Arriola Mook

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Author's note: Saipan Tribune*'s newest 10-part series, Women in the Know, features leading women in higher education. Abigail Baker, who has served in the U.S. Army for over 10 years, was last week's feature. This week's Woman in the Know is Theresa Rose Arriola Mook.*

Theresa Rose Arriola Mook remembers the exact day she developed a passion for sociocultural anthropology.

"I was sitting in my first ever undergraduate course at Brown University and the professor at the time was talking about the importance of culture and how it influences our daily lives and decisions," she said.

That was a pivotal moment as it kindled within Mook a yearning desire to learn more about how the CNMI's people use their culture to navigate the social world.

This Northern Marianas Academy alumna is currently attending the University of California at Los Angeles and will be graduating next June with a Ph.D. in anthropology.

"…It [anthropology] allows me to study in a field that has scientific rigor and standards, but is still able to capture a sense of humanness and compassion for others," she said. " For example, much of the research that I have been conducting involves one-on-one interviews with local people in the CNMI and being involved in community forums as a way to understand the perspectives of others on a very personal level."

Before matriculating at UCLA, the 27-year-old received a B.A. in sociocultural anthropology from Brown University in 2010 and an M.A. in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2012.

As a student at NMA, Mook has always had an incisive interest in culture and social issues. As a teen, she took part in research on the high rate of suicides in Micronesia and the cultural and historical impact of colonialism on the islands.

Mook

"I liked the way sociology and psychology approached these issues, but I did not fully discover my passion for the field of anthropology until I got into college," she explained.

Her experience and upbringing on an island community are salient factors in forging the path Mook has followed.

"As a teenager, I remember being inspired by church and community service activities and cultural preservation projects. I also loved expressing myself creatively with different art forms like drawing and was very into sports like tennis, basketball, and volleyball."

The islands' diverse demographic, she added, taught her to learn from a variety of people.

"Despite the many challenges that the CNMI faces, I grew to appreciate the uniqueness of the Marianas when I left for college and realized what a nurturing and community-oriented environment it truly was."

She considers her parents, Ned and Kathleen Arriola, as "spiritual resources for my life journey, and my desire to always be of service to others…"

Arriola plans to return to the islands after graduation and teach. She also hopes to use her anthropological experience to conduct studies and write research grants, which will improve the government and economic systems through public policy.

She believes that young students should be involved as leaders in the community and use their experience to produce positive social changes, both big and small.

She urges teens to have conviction and "a lot of courage."

"The knowledge and experiences that we have gained from our history, our elders, and our community can be used to respect our land and serve one another," she said. "But above all…have gratitude and learn to be compassionate toward others, especially when it means putting aside your own judgments to understand them."

NOTICE OF MEETING

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Friday, July 24, 2015 • **Time:** 9:30a.m
Place: BOR Conference Room Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order (9:30a.m – 9:40a.m)
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
1. May 22, 2015 – Regular Meeting
2. June 25, 2015 – Special Meeting

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. (9:40a.m – 9:50a.m)

III. Chairperson's Report

IV. Reports and Action from Standing Committees (9:50a.m – 10:50a.m)
a. Fiscal Committee Report
b. Program Committee Report
c. Personnel Committee Report

V. Old Business (10:50a.m – 11:15a.m)
a. Board Policies for Consideration (Second Reading)
1. Board Policy No .7001 – Audit (CFO Guerrero)
2. Board Policy No. 7003 – Financial Accounts (CFO Guerrero)
3. Board Policy No. 7004 – Reimbursement Expenses (CFO Guerrero)
4. Board Policy No. 7011 – Accounting (CFO Guerrero)
5. Board Policy No. 7012 – Tuition and Fees (CFO Guerrero)
6. Board Policy No. 7015 – Tuition Waivers (CFO Guerrero)
7. Board Policy No. 2007 – Naming Building Policy (President Hart)
8. Board Policy No. 4008 – Student Grievance Process for Instruction and Grade Related Matters (Dean Pangelinan)
9. Program Evaluation Policy (Dean Merfalen)
10. Program Termination Policy (Dean Merfalen)
11. Voter Registration (Dean Pangelinan)
12. Academic Calendar (Academic Years 2014-2017) (Dean Merfalen)
13. Program Approval Policy (Dean Merfalen)
14. Degree, Non-Degree Credit and Non-Credit Instructional Activity (Dean Merfalen)
15. Nominating Committee (President Hart)
16. Board Policy No. 4001 – Residency Classification (Dean Pangelinan)

VI. New Business (11:15a.m – 12:40p.m)
a. RFP Review of BOR Legal Counsel
b. NMC Audit Report and Exit Conference with Auditor
c. Tuition and Fees (CFO Guerrero) – (Action)
d. Finance and Facility Committee (President Hart)
e. Public Law 10-66 (Frankie Eliptico)

VII. NMC Executive Reports (12:40p.m – 2:00p.m)
a. President's Report
1. WASC Accreditation Update
2. Chief Financial Officer Report

VIII. Legislative Updates
a. House Bill 19-004 Substitute Bill (Frankie Eliptico)

IX. Board Meeting Assessment (2:00p.m – 2:10p.m)

X. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

XI. Upcoming Board Activities (2:10p.m – 3:30p.m)
a. Upcoming Events / Activities
b. Suggested 2015 Regular Meeting BOR Dates:
• Sept 17 (Thu) • Nov. 24 (Tue)
Suggested 2016 Regular Meeting BOR Dates:
Suggested: • Jan 07 (Thu) • March 10 (Thu) • May 20 (Fri)

XII. Adjournment (4:30p.m)

/s/Juan T. Lizama Date: July 20, 2015
BOR Chairperson

IN FIRST OF THE MANY UNANNOUNCED DFEMS DRILLS

'3 rescued after falling off Ladder Beach cliff'

A two-and-a-half-hour drill saw personnel of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services "safely rescuing" three persons, including two children, who "fell" from the cliff at Ladder Beach on Friday.

According to DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday, the Ladder Beach scenario was the first of many unannounced response exercises that they will be conducting.

Gersonde said Friday's exercise was to test their activation and response time as well as how the search and rescue team members would conduct their mission.

Under the exercise scenario, DFEMS received a call that "someone had fallen from the cliff at Ladder Beach."

Medic 4 unit from Koblerville Fire Station was the first to arrive at the scene, followed by a Hazmat Unit from the Susupe Fire Station. Medic 4 personnel determined that there was a need to activate the Search and Rescue Unit, which required both on- and off-duty personnel to be dispatched to the scene.

Gersonde said the first Search and Rescue Unit personnel arrived within 12 minutes of the initial dispatch. The team then rappelled off the cliff line at Ladder Beach, provided medical treatment, and safely hoisted the three "victims"—one adult male and two children.

"Some of the drills we are looking at conducting are search and rescue, hazardous materials, and wild land fires," Gersonde said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Cleanup brigade set for Aug. 1 at Tank Beach

Due to recent typhoons and rescheduling of Liberation Day celebrations, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade has deviated from its regular schedule with no announcement sent out last month as a result of the intermittent connectivity that the CNMI has been experiencing. But we will be at it again and picking up trash at Tank Beach on Saturday, Aug, 1, 2015, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

June's Obyan Beach Cleanup was successful with 18 volunteers participating. Thanks to Saipan Southern High School YEA Club, Marianas High School, Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and other volunteers, about 120 lbs of marine debris was removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

The BECQ is looking forward to repeat a success on Saturday, so join BECQ's Monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to WIC participants

This is to advise all WIC participants who were scheduled for an appointment on July 9, 10, 11, and 13, 2015, for a mid-certification and/or nutrition discussion that they can contact the WIC office at 664-4084 regarding their food benefits. For those that were scheduled for a certification appointment, you can come in on Tuesdays or Wednesday, as they are our walk-in days. As we are still unable to access our system, we continue to provide services but we are unable to print food benefits. ***(WIC)***

Marriage Encounter to host Talaricos' visit

CNMI Marriage Encounter is hosting Section 12 Ecclesial Couple Joe and Sue Talarico's visit to Saipan on July 21-24, 2015. We are inviting all Encountered couples, priests, and religious to join our two evening events:

■ M.E. Community Mass on Wednesday, July 22, 6pm at Santa Soledad Parish and CNMI Area Leadership Selection Process right after Mass.

■ Section 12 Community Enrichment on Thursday, July 23, 6:30pm at Joeten DaiDai Social Hall. Joe and Sue Talarico will be facilitating this enrichment.

Please bring a dish to share for each event. Call CNMI Ecclesial Team Cathy Cepeda at 483-7000 or Pali Ike Ayuyu at 483-4543 if you have any questions. ***(PR)***

Statewide Independent Living Council meeting rescheduled

The Statewide Independent Living Council's Third General Membership Meeting scheduled for July 9, from 1pm to 3pm, at the Rota Bay View Hotel has been rescheduled for July 23, 2015, same time and place. Agenda remains unchanged. For more information, contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950; Navy Hill, Buildings N2 & N4; voice: 322-6537/8; TTY: 322-6449; fax: 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; website: www.ovrgov.net. ***(SILC)***

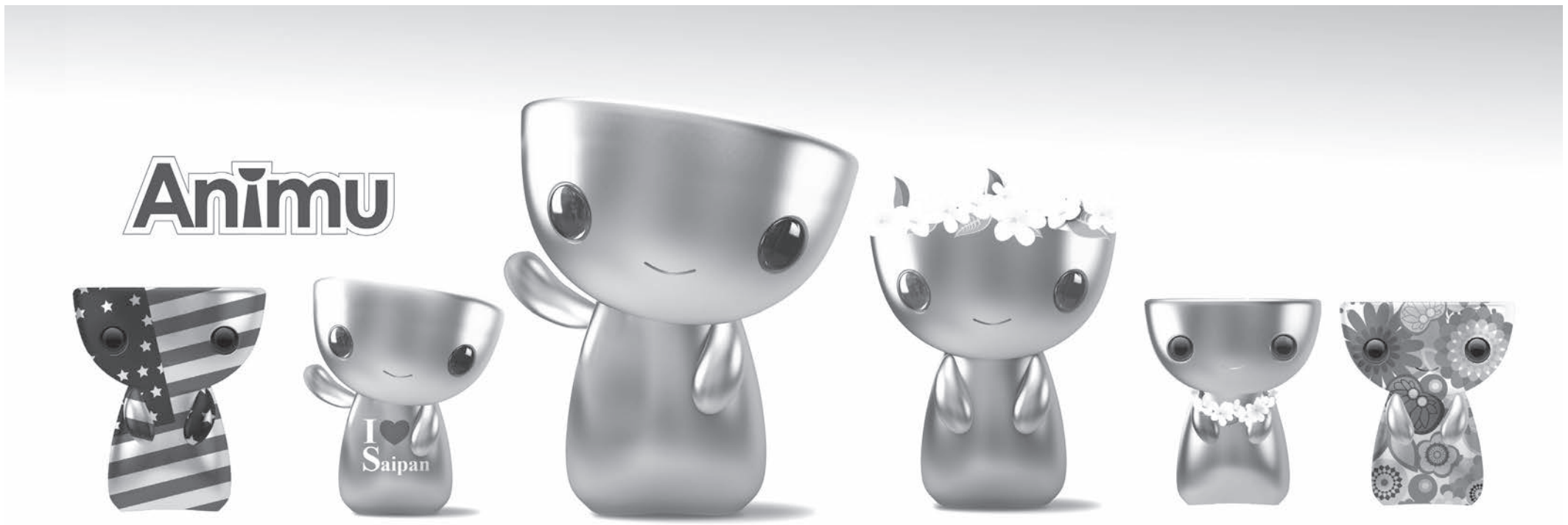
2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures set

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held Aug. 22 and 29 and Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. Cultural groups are encouraged to contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 to participate. ***(PR)***

Agricultural emergency loans now available

Commercial agricultural producers in Guam who were negatively impacted by Typhoon Dolphin may be eligible for Emergency Loans through the United State Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Eligible producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses to a maximum amount of $500,000 at a low interest rate. Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits. Deadline to apply is Feb. 5, 2016. For more information about Emergency Loans, contact the FSA Guam County Office at 472-7568 for an appointment or visit the FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/hi. ***(USDA)***

Animu: The Liberation Day mascot



The different versions of "Animu" as it went through the creative process. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With hurdles of power breakdown and loss of Internet and communications that were all caused by a passing typhoon, none of these got in the way of people's enthusiasm for the Liberation Day Festivities. Since the day the Liberation Day Committee began soliciting a possible name for the mascot, it received almost 60 letters through email and private massages on Facebook. After discussing and voting among committee members, they finally chose the name "Animu" for the Liberation Festivities mascot.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo hosted the lighting and check presentation ceremony right after the master of ceremonies, Gordon Marciano, announced the winner of the Mascot Naming Contest last Saturday, July 18, at the stage of the festival grounds.

When coming up with the name of the mascot, Lucy C. Sablan, the winner of the naming contest, said that "Na'I animu" means to encourage the spirit and to make an effort.

Sablan explained: "For the ancient Chamorros, our taotaomona, to build the latte stones, they had to be physically strong and have 'animu' to make it possible for them to carve out pillars up to 16 feet tall [and] weighing up to 56 tons (shaft and cap combined). This was not work for the faint of heart."

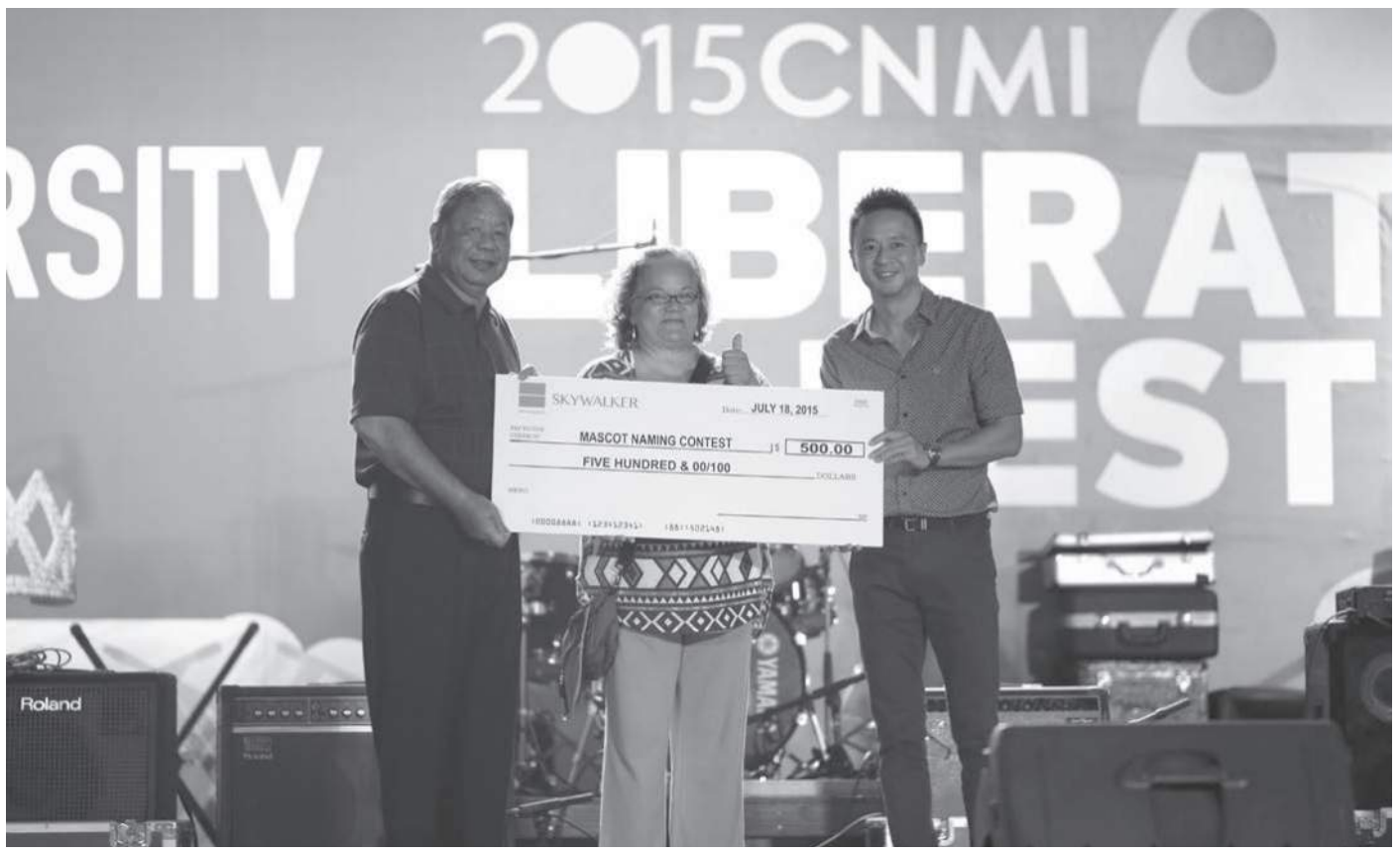
"The most common answer to the greeting 'Hafa adai, mauleg ha?' ('Hello, how are you?') is 'Animu ha ya guaha.' ('If you have the spirit.'), then all is well," she added. "Every Chamorro speaking person uses the word 'Animu' to encourage each other to work hard, work together, persevere and never give up. The main character, 'Animu,' illustrates the spirit and strength in the diversity of CNMI people."

From its creation to publication, several people made numerous contributions to how "Animu" came about. After doing considerable historical research, the entire creative team came to Saipan for the privilege of understanding the local culture and customs, as well as to experience the local people's unity and hospitality. From the gorgeous and splendid flame tree, to the world-renowned fruit bat and the exquisite and elegant frangipani, every single character of the CNMI could be the source of that creative spark. The creative team finally embraced the core spirit of the CNMI after seeing the shape, signs, and statues of latte stones all over Saipan.

"When I got to know the deep historical meaning of the latte stone, I believed that we have found the symbol of the CNMI," said Shijin Liu, the creative director of Skywalker Communications Group.

Shan Duan, an artist from Los Angeles, made the idea come true and brought about the figure of the mascot.

"We tried to make more models for the original figure of the mascot, with various clothes and different poses, with the intention of making it as vivid as possible. We also garlanded it to show respect for the two local races on Saipan," said Duan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, and Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo, right, present Lucy C. Sablan with her $500 prize after being named the winner of the Mascot Naming Contest last Saturday, July 18, at the stage of the festival grounds.

Since the unveiling of "Animu," the newly selected mascot has already won the hearts of CNMI residents with its all-embracing smile and enlightened spirit. This new fellow will stand side by side with the people here, representing the most valuable characters of warmth, encouragement, and the spirit of never giving up. ***(Skywalker Communications Group)***

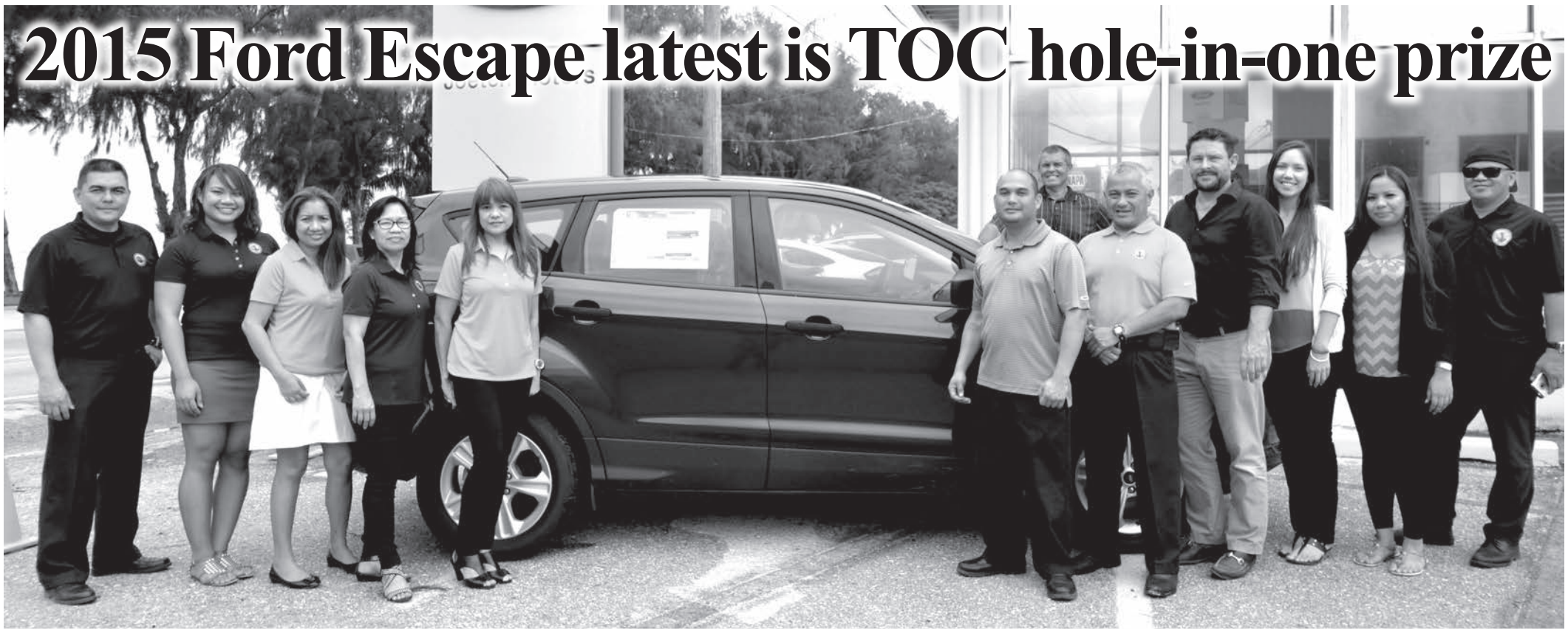
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skywalker Communications Group's creative team, from left, Jinshi Liu, Mengyi Feng, and Hongyun Zou.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Los Angeles-based creative team group leader Shan Duan and his team.

2015 Ford Escape latest is TOC hole-in-one prize



Members of the planning committee for the 2015 Tournament of Champions pose with Joeten Motors representatives in front of the 2015 Ford Escape that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize at the event. The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The organizers of the Tournament of Champions have just announced that the 20th anniversary of its upcoming, premier golf tournament will feature a 2015 Ford Escape as a hole-in-one prize. The vehicle is from Joeten Motors, which has been a longtime supporter of the Tournament of Champions.

"We're excited to be participating in the 20th anniversary of the Tournament of Champions by offering the 2015 Ford Escape—which is known for its innovative technology and advanced performance—as a hole-in-one prize," said Matthew Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors.

"We are extremely thankful for Joeten Motors' continued support of the Tournament of Champions," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "The company's donation will be a big draw for golfers and adds a lot of excitement to the event."

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, Triple J Motors, and Club C. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

Settlement in woman's discrimination suit OK'd

The federal court on Friday approved the settlement of a discrimination lawsuit filed by a Bangladeshi woman who complained that she was subjected to physical and verbal abuses and a hostile work environment at Pacific Islands Club.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge John C. Coughenour said he reviewed the terms of the May 19, 2015, settlement in the lawsuit filed by Samira I. Saures for herself and as guardian for her minor son.

Coughenour found the terms of the settlement to be fair and proper.

Interpacific Resorts (Saipan) Corp., owner of PIC, and Dan K. Thapa and Yue Wang, settled the lawsuit filed by Saures and her child.

Because of the settlement, the parties agreed to request the court to dismiss the lawsuit, with each party to pay its own costs and attorneys' fees.

Attorney William F. Fitzgerald is counsel for Saures and her child. Attorney Rexford C. Kosack and Glenn A. Jewell is counsel for PIC-Saipan. Attorney Sean E. Frink served as counsel for Thapa and Wang.

It is not clear whether the settlement deal is sealed or not.

Samira began her employment with PIC in March 2008 as a cashier and a waitress. Samira claimed that in August 2009 PIC constructively discharged her because of the harassing workplace. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Accountant I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 30/01 - $22,576.96 to PL 30/05 - $27, 437.44 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the disqualification of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2015**, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than July 30, 2015, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For all inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Appliance Technician I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 21/01 - $15, 105.87 to PL 21/09 - $22, 302.94 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Loan Specialist I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 26/01 - $18,584.00 to PL 26/07 - $24, 889.35 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening.

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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Nominees sought for 2015 Bridge of Light awardee

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence announced yesterday that nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Bridge of Light Award.

The Bridge of Light Award is given each year to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of one extraordinary individual who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

"The name 'Bridge of Light' was inspired by a song that was about going through a period of darkness in life marked by challenges, hardship and loneliness," said Maisie B. Tenorio, coalition executive director. "And the message was that care and love can build a 'bridge of light' that disrupts this darkness and leads toward something positive."

"Some of the victims and survivors we've met over the years described those who have helped them as acting like 'bridges of light,' which is why we would like to honor one of these individuals with this award," Tenorio said, "but first we need to receive nominations."

Nominations may be submitted by a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; a victim or survivor; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office is eligible to nominate, contact the coalition at (670) 234-3878 or email Kiki Benjamin at kiki@endviolencenmi.org.

The nominee may be a service provider, representative, or volunteer at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI, and who has been there for a minimum of one year. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

The Bridge of Light Award will be presented at the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony in October. Past awardees include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon and Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogumorro.

Nomination forms are available for pick up and submission at the NMCADSV office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai next to New XO Market, or may be emailed upon request and availability through kiki@endviolencenmi.org. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. The deadline to submit complete nomination forms is on Monday, Aug. 31, 2015.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-5498. ***(NMCADSV)***

Judge: Labor violated company's due process rights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has been found to have violated an insurance company's constitutional due process rights in connection with a 2008 Labor complaint filed by a housekeeper.

Due to the violation, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman reversed the Labor secretary's order issued in 2009 and remanded Royal Crown Insurance Corp.'s appeal to Labor for further proceedings.

Wiseman said that placing the burden on Royal Crown—which is entitled to notice under the Administrative Procedure Act—to check a Labor website for the notice of hearing without additional guidance as to when that notice will appear violates APA's mandate that a person entitled to notice is "timely informed" of the time, place, and nature of the hearing.

Section 4945 of the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 allows Labor to conduct service of process exclusively through publication—so long as it's accomplished in "any English-language newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth."

Wiseman said that to comply with the Act's Section 4945, Labor was required to serve any notice by publication in an English-language newspaper of general circulation.

In this case, Wiseman said, Labor did not.

Wiseman said Labor acted outside the scope of the law when it directed Royal Crown to receive notice of the hearing by periodically checking for the information on Labor's website.

Wiseman, however, determined that Labor had statutory jurisdiction over Royal Crown's obligations under the bond number.

The judge also ruled that Royal Crown identified no error under the statute as to Labor's order for Royal Crown to pay complainant Nelia P. Manalang $1,846.

Similar to the case of Premier Insurance Co., Wiseman noted, Labor mailed a notice of claim to Royal Crown's mailing address but chose to serve the actual notice of hearing solely by publication through its website.

Therefore, Wiseman said, Labor's service of notice violated Royal Crown's constitutional due process rights—a violation of a section of APA.

According to court documents, Royal Crown, a bonding company, issued a bond number to Wall Street Empire Inc., an employer seeking to hire nonresident worker employees under the Nonresident Workers Act. As a requisite, an employer must obtain a performance bond to secure the performance of certain specific obligations of the employer.

Under the bond number, Royal Crown became a surety to Empire, guaranteeing certain payments in case Empire failed to satisfy damages obligations to a nonresident worker.

In July 2008, Manalang, a nonresident worker, filed a complaint with Labor regarding a wage dispute with her employer, Empire.

Royal Crown was not a party to Manalang's complaint. The Labor administrative hearing officer held a hearing in April 2009. Neither Empire nor Royal Crown appeared for the hearing.

On June 3, 2009, the Labor administrative hearing officer issued an order, finding that Empire was liable for damages in the total amount of $10,273.25.

The hearing officer also held that Labor must inform Royal Crown of its surety obligations if Empire and others jointly liable failed to satisfy Manalang's damages award.

Royal Crown received notice of Manalang's filing of the complaint on a notice that reminded it of its obligations subject to a surety bond issued to Empire.

The notice instructed Royal Crown to check the schedule for administrative hearings on Labor's website. The notice warned Royal Crown in bold letters that, "This is the only notice [Royal Crown] will receive from Labor."

Around a year after the notice, Royal Crown received a notice of claim, dated Aug. 4, 2009.

On Nov. 25, 2009, the administrative hearing officer issued a decision in the bonding case. In its decision, the hearing officer found that Royal Crown should be ordered to partially satisfy Empire's obligation to Manalang by paying the wage portion to the limits of the bond.

No hearing was held before the administrative hearing office.

On Dec. 10, 2009, Royal Crown filed an appeal with the Labor secretary. However, in its decision on Dec. 30, 2009, the Labor secretary found that "nothing in [Royal Crown's] statement of grounds for appeal requires any different result from that reached by the hearing officer."

Royal Crown filed a petition for judicial review of an agency action and the APA.

SKYWALKER

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PEACE IN DIVERSITY

2015CNMI
LIBERATION
FESTIVITIES

2015 CNMI LIBERATION FESTIVITIES

Float Competition Prizes and Winners

Place	Prize Amount	Winner
1	$4,000	Yepese Community of Saipan
2	$3,000	Papago Lancheros
3	$2,000	Choll A Bellu
4	$1,000	United Filipino Organization

***Note:**
1: For all the winners, please contact Skywalker Communications Group via phone number: +1 (670) 234 7942 to register and come to attend the cheque passing ceremony at the Mayor's Office on Friday morning at 11am.
2: The commission for Liberation Queen and her Royal Court will be distributed on Friday at the Mayor's Office.

Raffle Prizes and Winners

Place	Prize Amount	Ticket Number
1	$10,000	24381
2	$5,000	12039
3	$3,000	12187
4	$1,000	23948
5	$500	17807
6	$250	06477
7	$150	34669
8	$100	29840

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress should put the Pentagon on a budgetary diet

This year's Pentagon budget debate in Congress has been heated—on issues such as prosecuting sexual assault and shutting the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. But little attention has been paid to, you know, how much money the Pentagon should get and how it should be spent.

Yet the explosion in military spending—it has doubled since 2001—urgently needs to be brought under control.

This can't happen overnight, because most big-ticket acquisitions are budgeted over years and decades, and lawmakers always step in to protect factory jobs and unneeded bases in their states. And even the smallest changes to health care and retirement programs face backlash from veterans' groups. But by overhauling the way military budgeting gets done, it may be possible to seriously cut spending down the road.

Fortunately, the new heads of both the Senate and House Armed Services committees, John McCain and Mac Thornberry, are pushing for radical change.

Rep. Thornberry's bill would require those in the Pentagon purchasing process to get "private-sector" training in acquisitions, speed up the process for buying off-the-shelf technology, take some of the legal complexity out of the purchasing process, and cut away some of the red tape that makes it hard for small businesses to bid on federal contracts.

Sen. McCain's bill would do even more—by shifting fundamental responsibility for acquisitions. It would give the service chiefs themselves primary authority, in effect demoting the Defense Department's acquisition, technology and logistics office to an advisory role. Under the current system, in which the secretary of defense's office has authority for research, development and procurement, too many committees have a hand on the steering wheel, and too many offices have to wait for a green light from others. And when the people who buy military hardware have too much time on their hands, it turns out, the inevitable result is "requirements creep"—multiplying requests for gold-plated widgets. It's a big reason the new Gerald R. Ford supercarrier ended up $2.4 billion over estimate.

McCain's system would reduce the amount of paperwork and manpower involved, and it would give the services more freedom to save money, including by working with tech companies and others that aren't traditional Pentagon contractors. It would also create a $600 million fund for "rapid acquisition authority" to let the services bypass rules on competitive contracting—and to get weapons more quickly into the hands of troops fighting Islamic State.

This new freedom would come with responsibility. The top brass in each service would be personally on the hook for cost overruns and delays, subject to an annual fine of 3 percent of the cumulative cost overrun (assessed from its general research and development budget).

All these reforms are worthwhile. In the next half century, as the military will have to face up to budget reality and rein in runaway spending, big-ticket budgeting will need to be more efficient.

(c) 2015 *Bloomberg News*

US has fumbled its response to the Syrian-refugee crisis

By FRIDA GHITIS
Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for the Miami Herald. *Readers may email her at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

As if we needed yet another reminder of the horror that has befallen the Syrian people, the U.N. refugee agency has just announced a new number that we should not allow to pass without a moment of collective introspection.

According to the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, the number of Syrians who have fled their country to seek refuge in other lands has now reached 4 million people. It is impossible to comprehend the magnitude of suffering that the number conveys. Four million lives. Four million people have left behind everything they knew and crossed the borders to save their lives. Another 7.6 million people have become displaced within Syria.

UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres says this is the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation; the worst refugee crisis in 25 years.

I say it is a collective failure of the international community that should prompt us to take action. To be clear, I'm not calling for American soldiers to rush into Syria. But American policies in the region need to change.

World powers have allowed the slaughter in Syria to continue unabated for four years. "It's not our problem" is the overwhelming attitude in most of the world. "Not much we can do" is a common excuse. "No good options" is the preferred cop-out among decision makers. All of the above are false, but the help exonerate our consciences, or at least provide us and our leaders some palliative justification for standing back while a country crushes itself to death.

In the meantime, the repercussions of failing to take a more proactive approach continue to mount. The death toll is rising, and an entire generation is growing up in the midst of toxic hatred, ensuring that the consequences of this disaster will not end when the shooting stops.

Inside Syria the death toll now probably exceeds 300,000, mostly civilians, including thousands of children. In refugee camps around the world the numbers are exploding and resources are running short.

Amnesty International says that today we have the highest number of refugees and internally displaced people since the end of World War II. This is no ordinary time.

In the face of this calamity, the international community that, like it or not, is led by the United States, has performed dismally.

The United States only started taking some action when American citizens were put on camera and decapitated by the Islamic State. By then Washington had allowed the situation to become much worse. Instead of helping the moderate pro-democracy opposition, which demanded an end to the dictatorship of Syrian President Bashar Assad, the United States stood back, allowing extremist groups—with generous support from wealthy donors—to capture the imagination of young Syrians yearning to break the shackles of the Assad dictatorship.

The excuse was that helping the opposition would mean helping the extremists.

It was a self-fulfilling prophecy. By allowing the moderates to fall behind in resources and capabilities, only the extremists in the opposition scored gains against Assad. The moderates fell behind and faded.

Even now, as the United States is trying to put together a fighting force against the Islamic State, it is failing miserably. Only 60 people have signed up for U.S. training to fight in Syria.

That's because the United States demands that they fight only the Islamic State and not Assad, and because they don't trust American support.

Word in the Middle East is that the United States has been too interested in making a deal with Iran to do anything that could upset Tehran. They believe Washington has been reluctant to do anything that could threaten the survival of Iran's best friend, Bashar al-Assad, even as he drops barrel bombs and uses chemical weapons to kill civilians.

The United States needs to allow those it supports to fight against Assad, not just against the Islamic State.

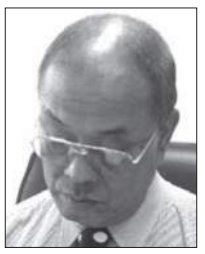
The war in Syria is spreading. It is metastasizing rapidly. Not only has it moved into Iraq, but it is sending ripples across the entire Middle East and all the way around the globe. Syria's carnage is destabilizing the ethnic balance in Lebanon. It is creating refugee crises in Europe. It is putting America on alert against terrorism.

Syria is the world's problem because as human beings we cannot, should not, allow that kind of suffering to occur without trying, and trying hard, to make it stop. It is our problem because it is destabilizing the world. It is our problem because the consequences of inaction are mounting and will continue for many years.

If hundreds of thousands dead, millions of refugees and ever-spreading ideological poisons don't make us reconsider failed policies, what will?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bulachon Kara` Kaha



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sige manliliku` i manma`gas yan lagua` talaya man-e`epineduñg sinsiyu. I publiku pineloña na para u fan manayuda malañgu ni para umana` hanau. Lau i intension i para umasaguaniye i kara` na kahan Marianas. Gi uttimun ha`ane marikohe kasi siete sientimus. Lastima i dañkulun lagua` tiau. Pinilota na kori` lau kara`!

`Nai kulan mamakat manmañoda`, man-ensinahyau para i Best Sunshine yan todu klassen "sunshine" man-epineduñg. Kulan mohon biahen manrikohen basula gi lugat publiku. Guaha muna` fonhayan lau memegaiña manhanau gi kaprechun niha. Esta mapapanag ilun niha haf` taimanu masaguaniye i kara` na kaha gi hegsu` I Deni`. Ni unu dimanche i dibina.

Gi mismu tiempu, klaru na dañkulu na difirensia nesessidat yan haf` makatkula na moneda para i sakan FY`16. Poku mas o`menos ennau i $40 miyon tinahoñgña i ginagagau na fondu. Un` pega i mas ke $30 miyon pesus na dibin gobietnu utilidat yan otru siha obligasion `nai mas klaru na tinahoñg fondu.

Disposision Hospitatta: I lai ni umestablese inetnon mafanana`an "board" para i hospitat ti nina`e atoridat dumispone areglu siha ni inappruebaña para u fan matatiye. Taya kampu mana`e para u li`e` na manmatatitiye areglu siha.

Ti areglu este soluke sahyan disareglu piot sa` taya pumupulan gaston fondun publiku para uma-asegura na propiu disposision gastu siha segun i lai.

Areglu gi mamanehan CHC presisu na u ma-establese `nos pot para tafan apulan kulan mohon mansaki lau pot para u guaha areglun disposision asuntun operasion hinemlu`. Ti komprendiyun i masede este para u lailai gi kaprichoña.

Hegsu` I Deni`: Sessu hu konsidera haf` na mampos mandiskuidau i mansabiun I Deni` gi masatban probleman iya Marianas? Buente inipos mafñot i kutbata na hinichum oxygen para i titanos niha pat hafa mohon dumitetene pronto nache`chu publiku? Kasi mampos kanifes i airen I Deni` na manhamalefa haf` propiu obligasion niha.

Gi pagugu ha`, sige mapatek i tai sinahguan na lata papa` gi hegsu dispues marepite gi birada hulu`. Gi puntan hogsu` manohge ya mapatek ta`lu papa` yan hulu` i lata. Durun chaleg mientras mafuefuegu i tai sinahguan na lata. Malofan i amiguhu Magoo. Ha hatsa un` lata ya ha eñgulu` madogña dispues ilegña, "Mauleg sa` parehu taisinahguan yan mansabiun i hegsu` I Deni`". Dios mihu!

Usun palabra: Huli`e` programan finu Chamorro gi television. Sige dos patgon yan planun para umatanom un` niyog. Ha hoka i unu un` dadeg. Ilegña i otru na tisiña sa` "hoben". I propiu palabra "gada`". Dispues, palabran "hoben" pot tautau ti tinanom.

I otru pot hagaf `sino hagahaf (pañglau kantit). Otdinariamiente, hu huhuñgog "hagahaf" kumu lagse` na usu guine. Usun hagaf tinatiye ni "umagahaf" i prohimu. Haf` kumeke ilegña "umahagaf"? Na ti mama` hagahaf i dos peskadot? Kasi dinancheña "ume`hagahaf".

Sige mapañgon tatte usun finu` Chamorro gi famaguon natibu. Mauleg na pinetsige gi manatatte. Lau i dichu primera pisu gi usun liñguahe debi u tutuhongue` ginen halom guma`. Sin este na tinituhon kulan famaguon naufragu famaguonta puru finu` e`suette ni ache!

Huli`e` guine gi sankattan na Marianas i dispasiu lau asegurau maliñgun hila` natibu. Tat patgon ti fuminu` E`Eñglis pa`gu. Entre ennau yan maplastan matan niha ni iphone yan ipad. Ma`tut todu diariu na konbetsasion entalu` membron familia. Un` fina`pos na yangin ti ta aregla pues puru disareglu gi kinalamten famaguon natibu.

■■■

Debi tana` fitme sensian petmanente ginen espirituta kumu natibu. Tana` para man-machoneg ñaihon `sino manmadispone gi halom gima`ta. Atetuye este na sensia pot famaguon natibu ni numesessita ineyag katgun achon tautau tanu` para i famaguon niha mismu.

Katdun Pañglau: Mamahanyu` pañglau Dungenese pot hu taña mañge` na katdun pañglau ni maleche nigyog. Taya pañglau echuñg `sino tunas. `Nai masa ya sigeyu` umamotsa hu hassu i sessu kumuni`e` ham antes era un` defuntu cheluhu. Magahet guiya muna` fan gai totche ham `nai ni mona ni tatte. Kontodu manog hatsadu hu kokone` guatu gi pa`gu manana si Yuus ginen taduñg halom tanu`.

Matachoñg gi un` banda un` ñietu yan manadan kuestion hafa hu kakanu`. Masa` chumochu pot miatburotu mafa` sensine i pañglau. Uttimoña mofona manhakot ginen i tason ke guahu. `Nai haspog ilegña, "Grandpa, otru biahe sasañgan na mañge` sentadamu". Deste ayu todu i tiempu finenina ha rikononose hafa nina`laguhu `an mattu giya hame.

Chenot Reput: Estaba un` amku` gi siyan hospitat sige umuguñg sa` mamogpug todu koyenturan adeñgña. Hu suspecha na dinalag hombre timalagu`. Ni para u baba mataña ya sinparat umiba`. Guiya este na pinadese i manadan asidu gi halom haga i tautau.

Gigon dinalag hau pues ni uhañg, pañglau, mahoñgañg, higadon guaka, mantikan ga`ga` yan lasas manog primera fotte na binenu siha kontra este na chetnot. Kontodu sashimi binenu! Faisen i medikumu hafa safu na fina` katne para hagu. `An ti un` tuñgu` pues kada ratu hau pogpug yan umesalau matai ni putimu.

More than a hairdo removed from the '60s

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

"My mother thinks Mick Jagger is a foreign car." So says my notebook from 10th grade. My real adolescence took place in the 1970s, but like many others I prefer to say I grew up in the '60s. Because I was born in 1957, it's sort of a lie.

But the '60s were still washing up on the shores of the '70s.

I longed to claim the '60s' insurgent intelligence and its radical reconstruction of cultural norms (not to mention the Summer of Love) but instead had to settle for the '70s' Jonathan Livingston Seagull, the rise of the Moral Majority and Love's Baby Soft cologne.

The '60s had edge; the '70s had embroidery. The '60s had Bobby Seale; the '70s had Bobby Sherman. The '60s carved its place in history; the '70s used a ditto machine.

Perhaps the world was less fraught—the war in Vietnam took fewer American lives, Watergate removed Richard Nixon from office and women were refusing to accept that the only place for them in political movements was on their backs.

But for kids like us—and for our families—the big world seemed far away. Mick Jagger might as well have been a foreign car.

I recorded everything in my composition notebooks: Herbal Essence shampoo's vow to whisk me away to a "garden of earthly delights," poems by Sylvia Plath, and lyrics by John Denver, Carole King, Janis Joplin and Lou Reed (I was attracted to the wild side but not ready walk on it).

The 1970s were as striated as a tequila sunrise.

My friend Ines, whom I hadn't seen in years, and I were reminiscing about what a long way we'd come, baby, when she asked, "Do you remember sleeping on orange juice cans to straighten our hair?"

I thought how it sounded like a weird ritual from an ancient and savage tribe: "To beautify themselves, nubile maidens were instructed to rest their heads on beverage containers."

We only did it for special occasions.

Before my yearbook picture, for example, I went to bed with cans on my head. My hair looked terrific. But I also have the drained expression of a detainee on "Lockup: Extended Stay" because I hadn't slept in 28 hours.

Boys did nothing to prepare themselves except brush their teeth and splash themselves with their dad's Old Spice, English Leather or Jade East. (Every man's fragrance had to have a double-barreled name for extra masculinity.)

Brilliant, talented and accomplished Ines followed up her question about the cans by asking me this: "How about the head wrap? Remember when we used our own heads as one giant roller? Many bobby pins were involved."

And there it was, the motto for our era: "The 1970s, when we used our own heads as one giant roller."

Personal struggles were slightly political: Tampons became widely available but, as my friend Marti reminded me, girls were warned away from them by our moms. Many of these women, raised in an even more repressive era, were worried that their daughters would lose their virginity to a Pursette.

I remember reading instruction manuals explaining how to use tampons. The prose said something like "Raise your left knee to the height of your right shoulder and, while remaining relaxed, keep your feet apart and pull your right elbow back ..." It was like doing the hokey-pokey, except it was for your period.

We wore hideously patterned Huk-A-Poo shirts. These synthetic garments had patterns so loud they could be heard over the roar of a 1972 Camaro and they were just as subtle.

Coveting them but realizing I could never afford them, I hit the thrift shops in rebellion.

As a result, in 1972 I was the best-dressed woman of 1948.

I once wore a postwar red silk dress so tight I couldn't sit for fear of splitting the seams. I leaned against the walls of the classroom all day like some louche figure out of a Hopper painting to the hilarity of my classmates.

In speaking with Ines, I realized what mattered wasn't that we'd come a long way, but that we could circle back and retrieve what mattered.

That, and the fact that even without cans, we still have great hair.

Iran's path to the bomb

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Want to judge the value of an international deal? Grade it not by measuring what it means to the United States, but what it means to the other guy. That's the standard that ought to be applied to the recently reached Iran deal.

Remember the Paris Peace Accords? They were anything but. In 1973, all the U.S. wanted from North Vietnam before the president pulled out every American combat troop was an assurance that the other side would respect the independence of South Vietnam.

But that was one point they were never willing to concede. The result of the "peace" deal ended with refugees scrambling to reach helicopters as the North Vietnamese army marched into Saigon.

All President Barack Obama asked for in Vienna, where the Iran deal was reached, was an assurance from the government in Tehran that it wouldn't build a nuclear weapon.

From the White House perspective, it got what it wanted. "Every pathway to a nuclear weapon is cut off," Obama declared.

But look at the agreement from Tehran's perspective.

It is clear that before the deal, they were intent on building a nuclear weapons breakout capability. Sure, they acknowledge in the new deal they will never build a bomb. That's consistent with what the regime has said in the past: "We have never pursued or sought a nuclear bomb," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani affirmed last year, "and we are not going to do so."

Nobody really believes that. If anyone did, there wouldn't have been a need for the negotiations to begin with. The nuclear and missile infrastructure the regime has built parallels the efforts made by both Pakistan and North Korea before they became breakout nuclear powers. There is no reason to assume Tehran's goal is any different.

So if Tehran wants a bomb, the real issue is do they believe this deal will keep them from getting one? The answer is no. We know that, because it's not hard to map out the path to how Iran will get a nuclear arsenal.

Iran already has the infrastructure it needs, and the deal doesn't require them to fully divest any of it. Further, Tehran can continue research and development and expanding its missile program.

Meanwhile, in the short term, the regime has every incentive to scrupulously comply with the deal. Why not? It comes at no cost and in return delivers sanctions relief and unprecedented access to global markets. By some accounts, Tehran can expect a $300 billion to $400 billion cash infusion into the country's cash-strapped economy. Much of that money will flow through the hands of the regime.

At the same time, fueled by a flood of greenbacks, Tehran can ramp up its aggressive foreign policy and strengthen its position in the region.

Given the stamp of credibility from the recent agreement, Iran can also ramp up its complaints about others. Since it has sworn off nuclear weapons, it can demand the West end its missile defense programs, cut off arms sales to other Middle East states, and crack down on other regional powers that might want their own nuclear weapons, as well as insist Israel divest its nuclear arsenal.

"Why not," Tehran will argue, "all these are a threat to us. The Vienna agreement proves we are peaceful. Everyone else needs to back off."

In a year or so, after it's filled its coffers, destabilized the balance of power in the region, and tightened its control over the people of Iran, the regime can reassess what it thinks about the Vienna Agreement. And it just might find the deal no longer makes sense.

Iran can team with other countries such as North Korea, China or Russia and quickly jump-start its program and become a declared nuclear power—but now from a position of strength.

From Iran's perspective, this is a deal worth having—particularly if its goal is to be a powerful country and have a bomb.

James Jay Carafano is vice president of the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy and the E. W. Richardson Fellow at The Heritage Foundation.

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English-anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Christian Church
Worship Service:
Sunday - 9:00am - 11:00am
Prayer Meeting:
Friday 8:00pm - 9:30pm
Cell Groups
Weeknights 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 12, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Queen of the World 2015

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Crowned last Saturday were third runner up Shake Espela, first runner-up Anne Arafol, Queen of the World 2015 Cris Manuel, second runner-up Tammy Torres, and fourth runner-up Babes Asinero.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

2001 Queen of the World Vannie Versoza transfers her crown to Manuel, who was named as this year's queen.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

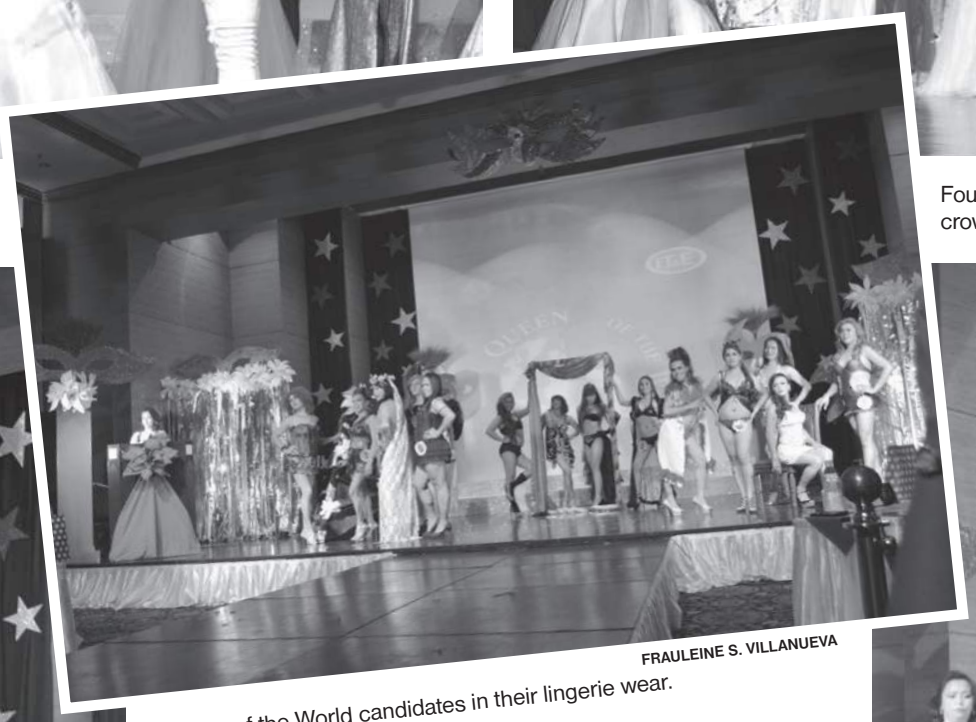
Cris Manuel was also awarded Best in Talent, presented by Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Merlie Tolentino.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Fourteen candidates vied for the 2015 Queen of the World crown at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall on Saturday.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Second runner-up Torres shows off her gorgeous rose-colored evening gown.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Queen of the World candidates in their lingerie wear.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Lesly Ibarra and Ramhae Andrea Adaza perform a song number for the crowd.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Versoza takes her farewell walk before passing on her crown to Manuel.

SAIPAN WELCOMES ITS FIRST SPANISH BAR

Aqua Resort's Vino Bar reopens

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Guests were able to try various wines straight from Spain.

Stepping inside Aqua Resort Club's newly reopened Vino Bar last Friday was almost like experiencing a slice of Spain.

With its rebirth, Vino Bar is now a true-to-its-name Spanish bar serving signature tapas and Iberian wines.

Some of the wines that they have straight from Spain are *sangre de toro blanco*, which is a white wine; and *pinord clos de torribas*, which is a red wine that uses *tempranillo* grapes and a *crianza*, which means it was aged for one year in the barrel.

They also have the cava, which is a counterpart of France's champagne.

Vino Bar also serves their own versions of sangrias.

"Sangria is a refreshing drink for the whole day, made of wine and fresh juice and comes with slices of fruits," food and beverage manager Rom Manzon said.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Flamenco dancer Ana Gonzales flew to Saipan to add a Spanish ambiance to Vino Bar's reopening last Friday at Aqua Resort Club.

On Friday, guests sampled an array of tapas that included *vegetales y bagna cauda*, which are vegetable sticks with special dip sauce; *huevos rancheros*, which is a kind of egg omelet; *lengue estopado con chorizo*, which is stewed beef ox tongue and sausage; *almijas marineras l'avi pau*, which is stewed clam with tomato garlic, pork dumpling wrapped in cabbage called *farcellets de Sol*, and a pork and green pepper turnover of Murcia called *pastille de carne y piamentos*.

Food and drinks aside, the bar's *ambiente* was decidedly Iberian, with Spanish flamenco dancer Ana Gonzales entertaining the crowd with a couple of dances and Spanish songs.

"She is from Spain and is one of the star dancers of one of the most famous flamenco dancing company," Aqua Resort general manager Kevin Tsurui said.

According to Tsurui, Vino Bar will cater more to the adult members of the community.

"We don't have any Spanish-themed bar here [in the CNMI] and, as you saw, this is a very quiet-type as opposed to very loud bars in Garapan. Some people like myself don't like that," Tsurui said.

"We just want to enjoy good food, good wine, good conversation because some of the places don't allow you to speak to each other," he added.

Tsurui said the feedback so far has been very positive.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, some members of the Legislature, government agency officials, and various representatives of the business community were present at the reopening party.

"I appreciate it that important people like that came to our party," Tsurui said.

He also thanked the community for their support.

"We've been through all the changes, the renovations, the beach bar and this bar. But one thing that stays unchanged is, because of the support of all the people who are here tonight, Aqua is still here," Tsurui said.

"We also celebrated our 26th anniversary. Without their support, we couldn't have survived. I just wanted to thank all of them for being here tonight and for their continued support throughout the years."

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Aside from wine and food, Spanish culture was further highlighted at Vino Bar as their form of music and dance entertained the guests.

Club C: When others come and go, we will still be here

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Club C celebrated its first anniversary last Wednesday night with a cocktail party for its customers, members of the government, and the business community.

"It's doing what we're very good at doing, which is basically a night of great entertainment and fun. …[That] is what Club C is all about," said Ben Lee, chief executive officer of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc.

Members of the Legislature, government agencies, Saipan Chamber of Commerce officers and members, and various companies were present.

"It was very, very good. They all enjoyed themselves," Club C general manager Peter Stewein said.

Stewein said they wanted to show their gratitude to the people who has been with them before and after they opened. "It's nice to let people know you've been around for a year but it's also a thank you," he added.

"The first is always difficult," Stewein said.

"The first year we had our challenges as with any in business," Lee said.

For the coming year for Club C, Lee said they still expect to stay in business despite the stiffer competition.

"We expect to be impacted by the coming competition," Lee said. "However, we are also confident that we can weather the competition and we expect that we will still be here when others come and go."

Lee believes what they have is a sustainable business model, which can survive whether or not the market is very good.

However, Lee also added that they are holding off some of their future investment such as Club C 2 and Club C 3, as what "any wise and reasonable businessmen will."

"The playing field conditions appear to change all the time, which does not make for a very conducive and healthy investment," Lee said.

"In light of the investment criteria and the operating criteria changing, the investment decision is not looking as certain, not looking as black and white as it was when we first opened," he added.

Despite this, Lee said they will still continue with present investments.

"We'll definitely continue Club C," he said.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Government officials and members of the business community attend Club C's first anniversary cocktail party on Wednesday at Kanoa Resort.

Limited seats on Asiana hinders Russian market

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The slow but steady growth of the Russian market in the Commonwealth is being stifled by the limited seats available on Asiana Airlines.

Tatiana Babauta, the Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing specialist for Russia, told the board last Thursday that, according to MVA's Russia office, the problem faced right now by Russian tourists is seat availability.

"According to our office in Russia, 30 percent of the seats is blocked by China travel agents so it is very difficult for Russian tourists," Babauta said.

MVA board member Tommy Choi said that due to Asiana Airlines' decision to cancel one of its flights to Saipan and its competitor, Jeju Air, also catering to the Korean market, Asiana has decided to focus on China, which is why China arrivals increased in May and June this year.

Although he did not cite specific figures, Choi said that China occupies over 40 percent, sometimes 50 percent of the seat availability on Asiana Airlines.

According to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, only a total of 252 Russians visited the CNMI in June, despite the normal peak season for the Russian market being June and July.

Tenorio said the Russian market's seat capacity when they did their load factor was about 0.7 percent.

Babauta said the Russian market has shown steady growth but the lack of seats remains a problem, including direct air service.

"As of July 6, we have 42 reservation via travel agents under our incentive program, with a total of 602 nights and the average room night is 14.2 percent," she said.

Earlier this year, the MVA board approved an incentive program that would help the Russian market grow.

MVA board member Jerry Tan asked whether Russian airline Ikar's announcement of launching charter flights between Moscow and Guam and Saipan this summer will push through. Ikar plans to fly using Pegas Fly.

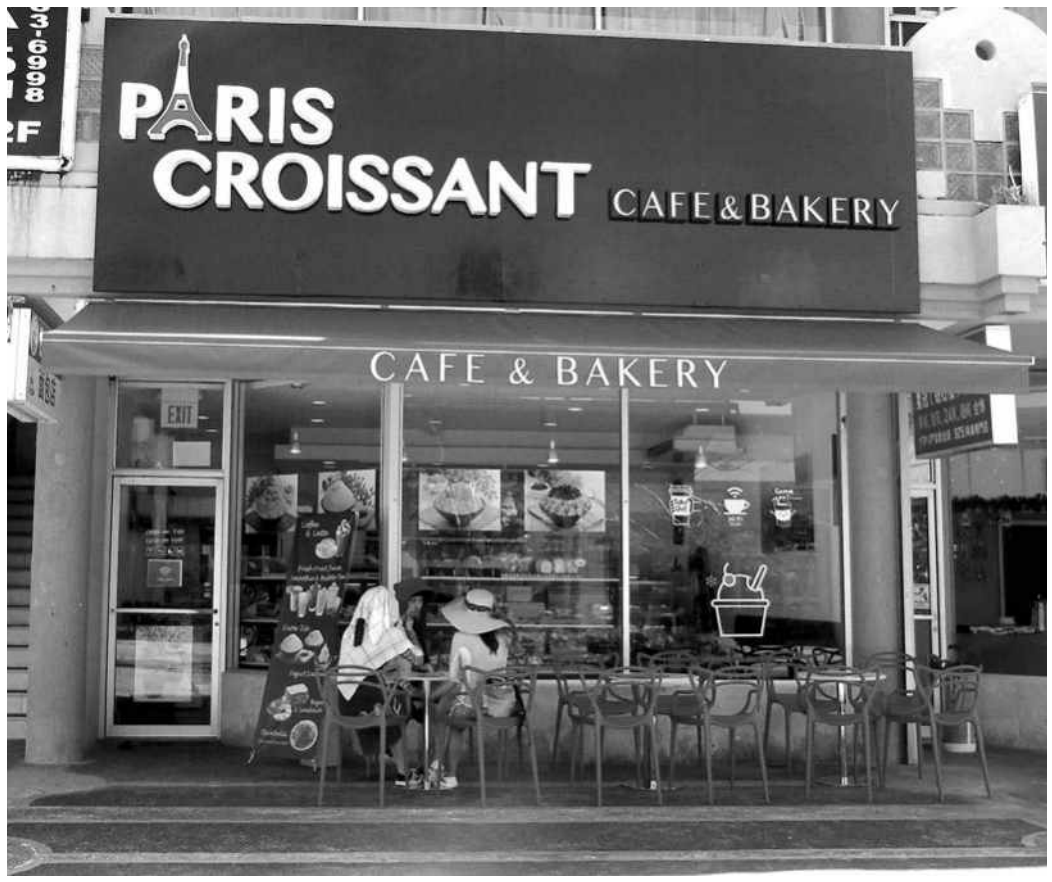
"According to our office, they got in touch with Pegas and they have no idea of the arrangement so our office is trying to get in touch and is waiting for a reply," Babauta said.

Tan also asked for updates whether H.I.S., an established Japanese tour operator, will do charter flights to the CNMI. In November 2014, H.I.S. announced that direct charter flights to the CNMI will be conducted from Vladivostok and Khabarovsk on a B737-700 aircraft operated by Yakutia Airlines with a total airlift is 132 seats, including eight business class seats.

"H.I.S. is still not going up from charter flights and hasn't announced yet but we are still waiting by the end of the summer," Babauta said.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Despite new ownership, Paris Croissant still offers its tried-and-tested baked goodies.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Paris Croissant retained its bakery but also expanded as café when it opened last May under the new ownership of Young Min Choi.

From Europe to Saipan: Paris Croissant's different café style

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

With a name like "Paris Croissant," one can't be faulted for not immediately knowing that this bakery and café is of Korean influence.

The second version of this establishment is owned and operated by Young Min Choi, who has been on the island for 10 years. She is responsible for renovating and expanding the old Paris Croissant, which used to sell only baked goods for 23 years.

"For the longest time, I wanted to open a café in Garapan," Choi said. "I've been searching for a place but I can't find it. When I saw this place and they wanted to sell it, I decided to make it a café."

Choi said she wanted to introduce a different style of café to the community.

"The locals, they only know the island-style, so I wanted to introduce to them other styles," she said.

When asked, however, why their name doesn't sound Korean at all, Choi said they were also inspired by other cultures.

"In Korea, they admire the European technique of making bread. …Koreans want to do something like that because they are inspired by that," Choi said.

New offerings

Since reopening in May, the new Paris Croissant not only retained their tried-and-tested recipes for bread and pastries, they also started offering a wide range of selections from coffees to desserts, and even lunch meals.

Their drink selection alone makes it hard to choose a favorite. This includes espresso, americano, caffe con pana, cappuccino, caramel macchiato, café latte, mocha latte, vanilla latte, affogato, tea latte, sweet potato latte, mint choco latte, and hot or iced chocos.

"Our coffees are fresh from Korea," Choi said. "If I order today, they will roast it today, send it tomorrow by air."

According to Choi, she chose to import their coffee because "Saipan coffee is too strong for me. Our coffee is fresh and mild so I bring it here."

They also have smoothies and juices made from fresh fruits as well as bubble and organic teas. Paris Croissant also offers yogurt ice cream and yogurt drinks.

Unique

What sets Paris Croissant apart from cafes on Saipan is their famous snow ice.

"Locals know our place for snow ice. This is very famous in Korea," Choi said.

"Three years ago I went to Korea to meet my friend and she introduced me to snow ice and I tried and I [loved it]. What is this? This is nice. Then I started it here," she added.

Unlike the usual snow ice, which just uses water, Choi says they use milk and a hint of honey to achieve their ice's snow-like, melt-in-your-mouth texture and delicious taste.

Toppings for their snow ice include blueberry, mango, melon, kiwi, milk, and rice cake.

Another different offering from Paris Croissant is their cheese latte. It's a cheese-flavored drink that uses milk as well. Choi said they couldn't find it anywhere here so they decided to try it.

Choi admits that their products are a bit pricey but their guaranteed quality and healthy ingredients make up for it.

Paris Croissant is open from 7am to 10pm every day. For more information, call 233-9292.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Paris Croissant's famous snow ice topped with blueberries as well as their special yogurt ice cream.

Corp. fined for failing to submit documents and workforce plan

The Department of Labor has penalized a business involved in a parlor and beauty shop for failing to file timely Census-related documents as well as a workforce plan.

In its order, CNMI DOL's Administrative Hearing Office imposed a fine of $500 on Mirage Corp., which does business as Mirage Massage Parlor and Mirage Beauty Shop.

According to the order signed by Hearing Officer Jerry Cody, the fine may be suspended for one year, and then extinguished if Mirage Corp. complies with the requirements that the order has set forth.

One requirement is that the corporation must submit an updated quarterly total workforce listing documents with Labor's Job Placement Section.

Mirage Corp. is also ordered to file a current workforce plan.

The order also warned the company that it has a continuing obligation to maintain the minimum workforce percentage. It added that the corporation should continue to attempt to increase its number of U.S. citizen and permanent resident workers. ***(Frauleine S. Villanueva)***

Nation

Family spokesman: Mental issues dogged shooter who killed 5

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—A Kuwait-born man who shot and killed five service members in Tennessee suffered from depression since his early teen years and also fought drug and alcohol abuse, spending time in Jordan last year to help him clean himself up, a family spokesman said Sunday.

The representative, who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid unwanted publicity, said relatives of 24-year-old Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez believe those personal struggles are at the heart of last week's killings at a pair of military sites in Chattanooga.

"They do not know of anything else to explain it," said the representative, who has been involved with the family since the shootings.

The claim fits a pattern of behavior by Abdulazeez that includes a drunken driving arrest earlier this year and the loss of a job over a failed drug test.

Abdulazeez had spent several months in Jordan last year under a mutual agreement with his parents to help him get away from drugs, alcohol and a group of friends who relatives considered a bad influence, the spokesman said

Counterterrorism investigators continue to interview Abdulazeez's acquaintances and delve into his visit to Jordan, looking for clues to whom or what might have influenced him and set off the bloodshed.

FBI spokesman Jason Pack declined comment on whether investigators were pursuing mental health records for Abdulazeez. But FBI Special Agent Ed Reinhold told reporters at the most recent news conference about the case that agents were looking into all aspects of his life and had not yet turned up any connections to Islamic terrorist groups.

Abdulazeez opened fire at a military recruiting office and a Navy-Marine operations center a few miles apart on Thursday, killing four Marines. A sailor wounded in the attack died Saturday. There is no explanation for why he targeted the military facilities.

Abdulazeez, who was shot and killed by police after a hail of gunfire, was first treated by a child psychiatrist for depression when he was 12 or 13 years old, said the family representative.

"He was medicated like many children are. Through high school and college he did a better job sometimes than others staying with it," said the spokesman.

Several years ago, relatives tried to have Abdulazeez admitted to an in-patient program for drug and alcohol abuse but a health insurer refused to approve the expense, said the representative.

The exact timing was unclear, but court records show Abdulazeez's parents reconciled after his mother sought a divorce in early 2009 over claims that included physical abuse of both her and the children, and sexual abuse of her while the children were in the household.

The representative said that Abdulazeez had owned guns for years, going back to when he was a child shooting at squirrels and targets, and called himself an "Arab redneck" or "Muslim redneck."

A year after graduating from college with an engineering degree, Abdulazeez lost a job at a nuclear power plant in Ohio in May 2013 because of what a federal official described as a failed drug test.

Recently, Abdulazeez had begun working the night shift at a manufacturing plant and was taking medication to help with problems sleeping in the daytime, the representative said, and he also had a prescription for muscle relaxants because of a back problem.

AP

Rodney Gray, left, prays during a memorial service at River Park Saturday, July 18, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tenn., for the victims of the Tennessee shootings.

Trump basks in McCain takedown, says rivals envious of rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans' swift condemnation of Donald Trump's disparaging comments about Sen. John McCain's military service marks a turning point in the party's cautious approach to the billionaire-turned-presidential candidate.

But Trump simply may not care; indeed he seemed to bask in his McCain takedown.

After dismissing McCain's reputation as a war hero because he was captured in Vietnam and "I like people who weren't captured," Trump declared "I will say what I want to say." He insisted he would stay in the GOP primary field, despite rivals who say he's now shown he doesn't merit the presidency.

"It's not just absurd," Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "It's offensive. It's ridiculous. And I do think it is a disqualifier as commander in chief."

Numerous other GOP candidates, including Jeb Bush, Rick Perry and Scott Walker, were similarly critical of Trump. The Republican National Committee also put its thumb on the scale, issuing a statement saying "there is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably."

As the furor unfolded, Trump spoke dismissively of his rivals and the GOP establishment in an interview with The Associated Press, recalling his years of helping to bankroll candidates.

"You know the Republican Party—of course I was one of their darlings when I was a contributor," he said. "I went from a darling to somebody that they're not happy with because I'm not a politician."

Asked whether he now thought McCain was a war hero, Trump merely referred to his previous day's comments, when he said "perhaps" he was while seeming to mock McCain for being captured.

Until now, Republicans have been largely cautious in their handling of Trump and his provocations.

While officials privately fretted about the damage he could do to the party, they are also worried about alienating voters drawn to his celebrity, brashness and willingness to take on establishment Republicans. He's emerged as one of the favorites early in a race that is bound to see shifts in the standing of many of the candidates.

Trump has made other eyebrow-raising comments since declaring his candidacy, most notably his assertion that Mexican immigrants are rapists and drug dealers. Many GOP candidates were slow and halting in their response to those comments, underscoring a continuing struggle to hit the right notes on immigration when they want to appeal to Hispanics without alienating traditional GOP voters.

AP

In this July 11, 2015, file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at FreedomFest in Las Vegas.

70 years after WWII, Japanese company apologizes to US vets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A major Japanese corporation gave an unprecedented apology Sunday to a 94-year-old U.S. prisoner of war for using American POWs for forced labor during World War II, nearly 70 years after the war ended.

At the solemn ceremony hosted by the Museum of Tolerance at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, James Murphy, of Santa Maria, accepted the apology from executives of Mitsubishi Materials in front of a projected image of the U.S. and Japanese flags.

Murphy, who was forced to work in Mitsubishi copper mines under harsh conditions, called the apology sincere and remorseful.

"This is a glorious day," Murphy said. "For 70 years we wanted this."

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, an associate dean at the center whose primary focus in the past has been Holocaust education, said he believes the move is unprecedented.

"As far as I know, this is a piece of history," Cooper told The Associated Press recently. "It's the first time a major Japanese company has ever made such a gesture. We hope this will spur other companies to join in and do the same."

Japan's government issued a formal apology to American POWs in 2009 and again in 2010. But the dwindling ranks of POWs used as slaves at mines and industrial plants have so far had little luck in getting apologies from the corporations who used them, sometimes under brutal conditions.

Some 12,000 American prisoners were shipped to Japan and forced to work at more than 50 sites to support imperial Japan's war effort, and about 10 percent died, according to Kinue Tokudome, director of the U.S.-Japan Dialogue on POWs, who has spearheaded the lobbying effort for companies to apologize.

ACROSS THE NATION

Official: Other side of collapsed I-10 also compromised

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California transportation officials say the westbound side of an Interstate 10 bridge in eastern California has also been badly compromised by flooding in the same area where the eastbound side collapsed. Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said Sunday night that it means the interstate that serves as a main route between California and Arizona will stay shut down "completely and indefinitely." Kasinga says engineers won't even be able to properly assess the damage to the two sides until Monday morning, and offered no timeframe for their opening again. The bridge that carries the eastbound side over a wash about 50 miles west of the Arizona state line gave way amid heavy rains, injuring one person who was driving a pickup truck.

Police arrest father of girl found dead with 4 others

MODESTO, Calif. (AP)—A man was arrested Sunday in the deaths of his daughter, two other girls and two women whose bodies were found in a California home, police said. Modesto police spokeswoman Heather Graves said Martin Martinez, 30, of Modesto, was detained in San Jose early Sunday and booked into a Santa Clara County jail on suspicion of murder. Martinez had a past relationship with one of the women and is the father of one of the girls found dead Saturday afternoon. All the victims are related, and the children's ages range from 6 months to 6 years old, Graves said. Police aren't releasing information about a motive, cause of death or how long the three girls and two women had been dead when they were found, she said.

Texas residents condemn plan for Muslim cemetery

DALLAS (AP)—Muslims say they're looking for a place to bury their dead. Locals say it's a plot to gain a foothold in their small rural Texas town. A proposal to bring a Muslim cemetery to Farmersville has stoked fears among residents who are vehemently trying to convince community leaders to block the project. The sentiment reflects an anti-Muslim distrust that has been brewing over the last year in parts of Texas, most notably 25 miles away in Garland—the scene of a deadly May shooting outside a cartoon contest lampooning the Prophet Muhammad. "The concern for us is the radical element of Islam," David J. Meeks, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, told The Dallas Morning News. He said he thinks the cemetery would be the first step toward a broader Muslim expansion in town. "How can we stop a mosque or madrassa training center from going in there?" he asked, referring to a type of Islamic school.

Asia

US Pacific Fleet chief joins surveillance of South China Sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—In a move likely to irk China, the new U.S. commander of the Pacific Fleet joined a seven-hour surveillance flight over the disputed South China Sea over the weekend on board one of America's newest spy planes.

Adm. Scott Swift joined the surveillance mission on board a P-8A Poseidon plane on Saturday to witness the aircraft's full range of capabilities, the U.S. Pacific Fleet said Sunday.

Territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines and several others have flared on and off for years, creating fears that the South China Sea could spark Asia's next major armed conflict. Beijing has asked the United States to stay out of what it says is a purely Asian dispute, but Washington has said that ensuring freedom of navigation in the disputed waters and the peaceful resolution of the conflicts are in the U.S. national interest.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila had no immediate reaction to the Pacific Fleet commander taking part in the surveillance flight.

The Navy has acquired and plans to purchase more of the versatile P-8A Poseidon aircraft to replace its aging P-3 Orion fleet. The plane can be used for a range of undertakings, including anti-submarine warfare, and surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

AP

In this Friday, July 17, 2015 file photo, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift talks during an interview with journalists Friday, July 17, 2015 in Manila, Philippines.

A picture posted by the Pacific Fleet in its website shows Swift intently looking on as U.S. officers demonstrate the P-8A's capabilities. In another, Swift, wearing headphones with a microphone, looks out the window at the blue sky over the South China Sea.

U.S. Navy Capt. Charlie Brown, a Pacific Fleet public affairs officer who flew with Swift on board the P-8A, said by telephone that the admiral "was pleased with the capabilities of the Poseidon."

Brown did not provide other details on the flight, like whether the plane flew over disputed areas where China has undertaken massive island-building that Washington has asked Beijing to stop.

In May, a U.S. Navy P-8A was shooed away by radio callers, who identified themselves as being from the Chinese navy, when the surveillance aircraft flew over a disputed area where China has been undertaking island-building works. A CNN reporter who was on board the plane, which had taken off from the Philippines, reported the incident.

Swift took part in the surveillance mission on Saturday after a visit to Manila, where he met top Philippine military officials. He flew to South Korea over the weekend and will visit Japan before returning to Hawaii, where the U.S. Pacific Fleet is headquartered. He assumed command of the fleet, among the world's largest, in May.

Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin welcomed Swift's move, saying it showed America's commitment to come to the aid of allies locked in territorial disputes with China.

"Militarily, we are nothing against China," Gazmin said. "That's why we have been asking our allies to assist us."

In an interview with reporters in Manila on Friday, Swift assured U.S. allies that American forces are well-equipped and ready to respond to any contingency in the South China Sea.

Swift said he was "very satisfied with the resources that I have available to me as the Pacific Fleet commander," adding, "we are ready and prepared to respond to any contingency that the president may suggest would be necessary."

The U.S., Swift stressed, doesn't take sides in the territorial rifts but would press ahead with operations to ensure freedom of navigation in disputed waters and elsewhere. "The United States has been very clear that it does not support the use of coercion and force," he said.

Dead S. Korean agent left note denying spying on civilians

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean government agent who was found dead in an apparent suicide left a note denying suspicion that the National Intelligence Service has been spying on South Koreans by intercepting cellphone and computer conversations, police said Sunday.

The 46-year-old NIS agent was found dead Saturday in his car parked on a hill in Yongin, just south of Seoul.

In his note revealed by police on Sunday, the agent said that the intelligence service "really didn't" spy on civilians or on political activity related to elections. He apologized to colleagues and NIS senior officials, including director Lee Byoung Ho, saying that overzealousness in doing his job might have created "today's situation."

The intelligence service told lawmakers on Tuesday it had purchased hacking programs capable of intercepting communication on mobile devices and computers in 2012 from an Italian company, Hacking Team, but that it used them only to monitor agents from rival North Korea and for research purposes.

The revelation is sensitive because the NIS has a history of illegally tapping South Koreans' private conversations. The NIS is planning to reveal to lawmakers the details of how the programs were used to quell suspicions that it had been unlawfully monitoring civilians.

In the note he left behind, the agent also said that he destroyed surveillance material on the activity of North Korean agents because the data had created "misunderstandings."

Police officials, who had initially refused to release the details of the note, didn't reveal the name of the agent or what his duties were for the NIS. Phone calls to the NIS office rang unanswered Sunday.

The controversy surrounding NIS emerged earlier this month when a searchable library of a massive email trove stolen from Hacking Team, released by WikiLeaks, showed that South Korean entities were among those dealing with the firm.

Two NIS directors who successively headed the spy service from 1999 to 2003 were convicted and received suspended prison terms for overseeing the monitoring of cellphone conversations of about 1,800 of South Korea's political, corporate and media elite.

On Thursday, South Korea's Supreme Court ordered a new trial for another former spy chief convicted of directing an online campaign to smear a main opposition candidate in the 2012 presidential election, won by current President Park Geun-hye.

2 women to vie in Taiwan presidential election for 1st time

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's top two political parties have each nominated a woman for president in 2016, a historic first signaling acceptance of female leadership and kicking off a campaign highlighted so far by clashing views on ties with rival China.

The ruling Nationalist Party on Sunday picked as its candidate Hung Hsiu-chu, a former teacher and the current deputy legislative speaker. Hung, who supports friendly relations with China, will run against Tsai Ing-wen, the opposition Democratic Progressive Party chairwoman and an advocate of more cautious relations with Beijing. Tsai leads in opinion polls ahead of January's election.

Ties with Beijing, long icy but cordial since 2008, have shaped up as an early campaign issue.

Voters in Taiwan, which has been democratic since the late 1980s, have never elected a woman as president nor had a choice between two female candidates backed by the major parties.

Joanna Lei, chief executive officer of the Chunghua 21st Century Think Tank in Taiwan, said that some younger women struggle to advance in Taiwan. However, she said society accepts the leadership of women over age 50 because they historically ran clans in China, where Taiwan's culture originates.

Backed by the ruling Nationalist Party members, Hung Hsiu-chu, a former teacher and current deputy legislative speaker, waves a flag as she is nominated as the party's candidate in the January presidential election, Sunday, July 19, 2015, in Taipei, Taiwan. AP

Women manage 10 government departments and some of Taiwan's top companies. One third of Taiwanese legislators are female, compared to 13 percent in Japan and 16 percent in South Korea, said Sean King, senior vice president with Park Strategies, a New York-based consultancy firm.

Elsewhere in Asia, Park Geun-hye took office two years ago as South Korea's first female president, and Sheikh Hasina is currently the prime minister of Bangladesh. Women have also been elected to the highest office over the years in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and India.

China claims sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan, where Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists based their government in the 1940s after losing the Chinese civil war to the Communists. China insists that the two sides should eventually reunite, though opinion polls on the island say most Taiwanese prefer autonomy.

Elected in 2008, President Ma Ying-jeou set aside the political dispute to start dialogue with Beijing and sign economic agreements. He agreed with Beijing to negotiate on the basis that both sides belong to one China, though with different interpretations.

Hung supports a similar understanding with China, but Tsai's party rejects that basis for talks as a slight to Taiwan's autonomy. Without a framework for dialogue, tensions could rise again, making new agreements difficult.

Stampede at Hindu religious festival in east India kills 2

NEW DELHI (AP)—A stampede at a religious festival attended by tens of thousands of people in eastern India left two women dead Saturday, police said, the second deadly stampede at an Indian Hindu festival in less than a week.

At least 10 other people were injured in the melee at the Rath Yatra, or Chariot Festival, in the temple town of Puri in Orissa state, Press Trust of India news agency reported, citing local police.

Police said the crowd swelled and surged toward a chariot being carried in a procession, according to PTI.

Two of the injured were in critical condition in a hospital, it said.

Deadly stampedes are fairly common during Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather in small areas with few safety or crowd control measures.

On Tuesday, tens of thousands of pilgrims taking part in a Hindu religious bathing festival surged forward and triggered a massive stampede on a riverbank in southern India's Andhra Pradesh state, leaving at least 27 dead and dozens injured.

In October 2013, a stampede in Madhya Pradesh state in central India killed more than 110 people, mostly women and children.

World

US, Cuba restore full diplomatic ties after 5 decades

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than a half century of Cold War and lingering enmity came to an abrupt but quiet end on Monday as the United States and Cuba restored full diplomatic relations.

The new era began with little fanfare when an agreement between the two nations to resume normal ties on July 20 came into force just after midnight Sunday and the diplomatic missions of each country were upgraded from interests sections to embassies. When clocks struck 12:00 in Washington and Havana, they tolled a knell for policy approaches spawned and hardened over the five decades since President John F. Kennedy first tangled with youthful revolutionary Fidel Castro over Soviet expansion in the Americas.

Without ceremony in the predawn hours, maintenance workers were to hang the Cuban flag in the lobby of the State Department alongside those of other nations with which the U.S. has diplomatic relations. The historic shift will be publicly memorialized later Monday when Cuban officials formally inaugurate their embassy in Washington and Cuba's blue, red and white-starred flag will fly for the first time since the countries severed ties in 1961. Secretary of State John Kerry will then meet his Cuban counterpart, Bruno Rodriguez, and address reporters at a joint news conference.

AP

In this June 10, 2015 file photo, members of the media cover workers from Eastern Shores Flagpoles raising a flagpole at the Cuban Interest Section in Washington in preparation for re-opening of embassies in Havana and Washington.

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana plans to announce its upgrade to embassy status in a written statement on Monday, but the Stars and Stripes will not fly at the mission until Kerry visits in August for a ceremonial flag-raising.

The Cuban Interests Section in Washington switched its Twitter account to say "embassy," one of a series of similar changes being made to the two country's social media accounts.

Conrad Tribble, deputy chief of mission for the United States in Havana, tweeted: "Just made first phone call to State Dept. Ops Center from United States Embassy Havana ever. It didn't exist in Jan 1961."

And yet, though normalization has taken center stage in the U.S.-Cuba relationship, there remains a deep ideological gulf between the nations and many issues still to resolve. Among them: thorny disputes such as over mutual claims for economic reparations, Havana's insistence on the end of the 53-year-old trade embargo and U.S. calls for Cuba to improve on human rights and democracy. Some U.S. lawmakers, including several prominent Republican presidential candidates, have vowed not to repeal the embargo and pledged to roll back Obama's moves on Cuba.

In an IS training camp, children told: Behead the doll

SANLIURFA, Turkey (AP)—The children had all been shown videos of beheadings and told by their trainers with the Islamic State group that they would perform one someday. First, they had to practice technique. The more than 120 boys were each given a doll and a sword and told, cut off its head.

A 14-year-old who was among the boys, all abducted from Iraq's Yazidi religious minority, said he couldn't cut it right. He chopped once, twice, three times.

"Then they taught me how to hold the sword, and they told me how to hit. They told me it was the head of the infidels," the boy, renamed Yahya by his IS captors, told The Associated Press last week in northern Iraq, where he fled after escaping the IS training camp.

When Islamic State extremists overran Yazidi towns in northern Iraq last year, they butchered older men and enslaved many of the women and girls. Dozens of young Yazidi boys like Yahya had a different fate: The IS sought to re-educate them. They forced them to convert to Islam from their ancient faith and tried to turn them into jihadi fighters.

It is part of a concerted effort by the extremists to build a new generation of militants, according to AP interviews with residents who fled or still live under IS in Syria and Iraq. The group is recruiting teens and children using gifts, threats and brainwashing. Boys have been turned into killers and suicide bombers. An IS video issued last week showed a boy beheading a Syrian soldier under an adult militant's supervision. Last month, a video showed 25 children unflinchingly shooting 25 captured Syrian soldiers in the head.

AP

In this April 19, 2015 picture, Syrian boy Ahmad, 7, whose parents went missing in Syria, attends a class of religious lessons at an Islamic teaching center designed to counter Islamic State group indoctrination, near the Turkish-Syrian border city of Sanliurfa, southern Turkey.

In schools and mosques, militants infuse children with extremist doctrine, often turning them against their own parents. Fighters in the street befriend children with toys. IS training camps churn out the Ashbal, Arabic for "lion cubs," child fighters for the "caliphate" that IS declared across its territory. The caliphate is a historic form of Islamic rule that the group claims to be reviving with its own radical interpretation, though the vast majority of Muslims reject its claims.

"I am terribly worried about future generations," said Abu Hafs Naqshabandi, a Syrian sheikh who runs religion classes for refugees in the Turkish city of Sanliurfa to counter IS ideology.

Boko Haram tops agenda for Nigerian leader meet with Obama

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's new President Muhammadu Buhari travels to the United States on Sunday for a meeting with President Barack Obama to mend relations battered by his predecessor's failures to fight an Islamic uprising and corruption in Africa's biggest oil producer.

Buhari's March election, hailed as the first democratic change of power in the West African nation that has suffered decades of military rule, has already resulted in pledges from the U.S. to help hunt down stolen funds and increased military aid to fight the insurgency.

Suicide bombings and village attacks blamed on Nigeria's homegrown Boko Haram extremists have killed hundreds of people at home and in neighboring Chad, Niger and Cameroon just in the past two weeks.

Buhari's May 29 inauguration was followed by a surge in attacks by the 6-year-old uprising that aims to form an Islamic state and has killed more than 13,000 people while driving 1.5 million from their homes.

Buhari has also inherited a firestorm of other problems, including near-empty coffers, tens of thousands of unpaid civil servants and an income slashed by halved oil prices. Nigeria, the world's seventh most populous nation at 170 million, is the U.S.'s biggest trading partner in Africa.

The Monday meeting with Obama is expected to focus on more military aid, recovering stolen funds and reviving flagging investment in Nigeria's corruption-riddled petroleum industry.

Ahead of the meeting, Buhari, a dictator in the 1980s lauded as the only Nigerian leader not to have enriched himself from state coffers, has been cleaning house.

He laid off scores of former ruling party members that had been given lucrative positions on the boards of state owned companies and fired the entire top echelon of the military he has accused of corruption.

As a retired army major general who put down a small Islamic revolt in the 1980s, Buhari is expected to have more success motivating troops demoralized by poor equipment and bad leadership.

Nigerian soldiers have said they are outnumbered and outgunned by Boko Haram and often are sent into battle with no food and just 30 bullets each.

Surfer fights off shark during South Africa competition

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Knocked off his board by an attacking shark, a surfer punched the creature before escaping unharmed during the televised finals of a world surfing competition in South Africa on Sunday.

Three-time world champion Australian surfer Mick Fanning was struck by the shark from behind and knocked into the water as he sat on his board waiting his turn during the JBay Open in Jeffrey's Bay in the Eastern Cape Province.

As he scans the water, two fins appear and with a splash he disappears under the surface. He is next seen furiously trying to swim to safety before a rescuer pulls him out of the water.

"A big sigh of relief seeing Fanning in one piece," a commentator is heard saying, on the video of the event posted on the World Surf League website.

"I felt something grab, get stuck in my leg rope and instantly jump away. And it just kept coming at my board," Fanning said, once safe on the rescue boat.

Fanning said at first he swam away but then decided to defend himself and turned to punch the shark in the back.

"I saw it taking my board away and I just started cracking it," he told a crowd that gathered around him once he was back on shore, referring to how he struck the shark.

AP

In this image made available by the World Surf League, Australian surfer Mick Flanning is pursued by a shark, in Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa, Sunday, July 19, 2015.

"I'm totally fine. I've got nothing wrong with me," Fanning said in an interview. "There's a small depression in my board and my leg wrap (was) bitten. I'm just totally tripping out. To walk away from that, I'm just so stoked. Oh man."

The World Surf League cancelled the remainder of the event and Fanning will split the prize money with fellow Australian surfer Julian Wilson, who was also in the water when the attack happened. The two will share second place.

"We are incredibly grateful that no one was seriously injured today," the league said in a statement. "Mick's composure and quick acting in the face of a terrifying situation was nothing short of heroic."

Commentator Ross Williams said there are occasionally shark sightings in and around events but an actual attack was very unusual.

"For it to happen in that fashion during the finals, where it actually showed that crazy aggression toward Mick Fanning, such a crazy thing," he said on the video.

Focus

CHATTANOOGA SHATTERED:

A single gunshot, silence, and terror

AP

Members of Teen Challenge, gather for a memorial service at River Park Saturday, July 18, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tenn., for the victims of the Tennessee shootings.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—A single "pop" cut through the quiet morning. Those who heard it had a moment to ponder the noise.

On this ordinary Thursday, some thought a car had backfired, or maybe a tire had blown. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dodge looked up from his computer in an Army recruiting office in a strip mall, more curious than alarmed.

Then a young man in a rented convertible re-aimed his rifle and unleashed a frenzy of bullets. These were the opening shots in a single-handed rampage against the military that seized this city for hours and reignited American fears about radicalization and homegrown terror. The shooter's motive remains a mystery.

Glass shattered, televisions exploded, bullets whizzed past the heads of servicemen at their desks and rooted in the walls behind them. In nearby restaurants and hair salons and shops, people dived for cover or stood paralyzed by fear.

Inside the five side-by-side recruiting offices, one for each branch of the military and the National Guard, no one panicked.

"They were being soldiers," said Keith Wheatley, the property manager, a Marine himself, who arrived moments after the attack. "That's part of their job description. They know that any given time they could take fire, that's what they do. They weren't crying or upset. They were just trying to figure out what to do next."

Dodge had taken command of the recruiting office near Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport barely a month before. But after four tours in Iraq, he knew the drill. As the bullets rocketed by, he hustled the others in his office to a secure closet.

They emerged when the firing subsided, amazed to find just one person shot in the leg, unaware that the worst was far from over. They would soon learn from arriving police officers that the man in the silver Mustang had made his way across town to a Navy and Marine Reserve center and crashed the gate.

Back at the recruiting center, they waited for word outside their shattered storefront, emblazoned with the seal of the U.S. Marine Corps: a bald eagle atop the Earth, clutching a scroll in its beak that reads "Semper Fidelis." Always faithful.

Now seven jagged holes scarred the globe at its feet.

Seven miles from the strip mall, Lance Cpl. Skip Wells swapped texts with his girlfriend, Caroline Dove, 400 miles away at her home in Savannah, Georgia. They had not seen each other for months, and she was planning a visit for the following week.

"Can't wait anymore," he typed Thursday morning from the Reserve center, tucked between an industrial park and a leafy riverside park.

"Yes you can honey," she responded.

Around the same time, hordes of Chattanooga police heading for the recruiting offices heard the Mustang had been spotted, and changed course toward the Reserve center.

The car pulled off the highway, snaked around two concrete barriers meant to slow approaching vehicles and punched through the green chain-link gate into the parking lot.

The driver got out.

Officers who had tailed him there "immediately and aggressively" engaged him, Police Chief Fred Fletcher said.

In Savannah, a new message from Wells appeared on Dove's screen: "ACTIVE SHOOTER."

She thought he was joking.

The gunman, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, lived with his parents in an all-American suburb, with big houses and tidy lawns. Classmates described the Kuwait-born 24-year-old as an affable young man who made the Red Bank High School wrestling team and once offered a stranded neighbor a ride home in the snow.

Investigators are trying to piece together where along the way he went wrong.

He struggled for years with depression, his family said in a statement Saturday.

"There are no words to describe our shock, horror and grief," they wrote. "The person who committed this horrible crime was not the son we knew and loved."

Court records point to a volatile family life. His mother filed for divorce in 2009 and accused her husband of sexually assaulting her and abusing their children. She later agreed to reconcile.

Abdulazeez, tall and athletic, with an engineering degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, worked for a short time at a nuclear power plant in Ohio. Then a drug test tripped him up, a federal official briefed on the case told The Associated Press, and the company let him go.

He visited relatives in Jordan for several months last year, and when he came back, he resumed attending services at a mosque. He kicked soccer balls on his lawn and kept up with his friends, neighbors said. Sometimes, he shot pellet guns off the back deck, aiming at a red target hanging from a tree in the woods.

Friends who saw him in recent weeks told the AP they noticed nothing alarming.

On a Monday morning in April, around 2 a.m., a Chattanooga police officer pulled over a 14-year-old gray Toyota Camry. The driver, Abdulazeez, had been swerving, speeding and stopping at green lights, according to the police report. His eyes were droopy and watering; he slurred his speech and mumbled. He smelled of alcohol and marijuana and had white powder around his nostrils.

Abdulazeez told the officer that he had crushed up caffeine pills and snorted them. His court date was set for July 30.

That night, the police snapped a mug shot of the man with a crooked smile and a bushy beard.

Marilyn Hutcheson was working at a glass company across the street from the Reserve facility when, around 11 a.m., she heard a fusillade of gunshots.

"I couldn't even begin to tell you how many," she said. "It was rapid fire, like pow-pow-pow-pow, so quickly. The next thing I knew there were police cars coming from every direction."

A gunbattle erupted across the street.

Abdulazeez carried at least three guns, the FBI said. He didn't wear body armor but had on a vest designed to carry extra ammunition.

Investigators described him as a "moving target" and said he fired round after round at police.

Chattanooga police officers swarmed the scene, Fletcher said, each armed with a .45-caliber pistol and an AR-15 rifle. Some police brass rushed from headquarters; officers at home off-duty threw on their uniforms and ran.

One of Abdulazeez's bullets tore into Officer Dennis Pedigo's ankle. His fellow officers dragged the fallen policeman to safety.

It felt as if the firefight raged for 20 minutes, Hutcheson said. Business owners along the industrial corridor threw their doors closed and locked them. They huddled with employees and customers and people passing by who fled for cover. They watched the news and peered out as more police cars screamed down the street.

They couldn't see much from the windows. The Reserve center is set back from the street on the Tennessee River, in a valley and behind a row of trees. Neighbors could only hear chaos.

"We're apprehensive," Hutcheson said into the phone as the store remained locked down. "Not knowing what transpired, if it was a grievance or terroristic, we just don't know."

The area inside the fences is about the size of two football fields, said Lance Cpl. Austin Handle, who transferred from the facility last month. The building sits in the middle, surrounded by a parking lot, with a separate gated lot attached in the back where military vehicles are stored. It's a small complex that draws little attention—the last place Handle imagined ever seeing on the news.

Images showed officers with their weapons drawn crouched behind police cars and running from one car to the next. The area is mostly surrounded by woods, and the officers appeared at times as though they weren't sure where the gunfire was coming from. Along a jogging path that runs near the Navy-Marine Reserve center, a sniper lay on the ground with his rifle, peering through a scope. An officer knelt beside him, also ready to fire.

On the front line, officers advanced as Abdulazeez rained bullets. They returned fire until he was dead.

"It is apparent by looking at the crime scene ... that these officers were under a tremendous amount of gunfire from this individual," FBI agent Ed Reinhold said, "and yet they continued to move forward against this target and engage him and eliminated that threat, saving numerous lives throughout this community."

By the time it was over, four decorated Marines and a sailor—three of whom survived combat missions—and their attacker lay dead or dying.

Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, from Burke County, North Carolina, called Marines his brothers, friends said. The former Boy Scout enlisted in 2004 and was deployed three times, twice to Iraq. Handle described him as a "man's man," always quick with a joke.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith, a father of three, was a reservist on active duty in Chattanooga. He died at the hospital two days later.

Sgt. Carson Holmquist enlisted in 2009, months after graduating from high school in tiny Polk County, Wisconsin. He served two tours of duty.

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, of Hampden, Massachusetts, had served for 18 years, including two tours in Iraq. He was a father figure to the younger men, Handle said, tough but kind. He earned two Purple Hearts. His death could earn him a third.

Lance Cpl. Squire Wells, nicknamed Skip, came from a suburban Atlanta military family: His grandfather was in the Air Force, and his grandmother and mother were in the Navy. He loved flag football and American history and hoped to become a drill sergeant. The other Marines made fun of him, Handle said, because he was always so motivated, even during the most excruciating drills.

Dove, Wells' girlfriend, whom he had been texting in the moments before the murders, is on the way to becoming a Marine herself, having signed up just months ago.

"I love you," she texted desperately after news of the attack reached her.

Hours passed. She called and called.

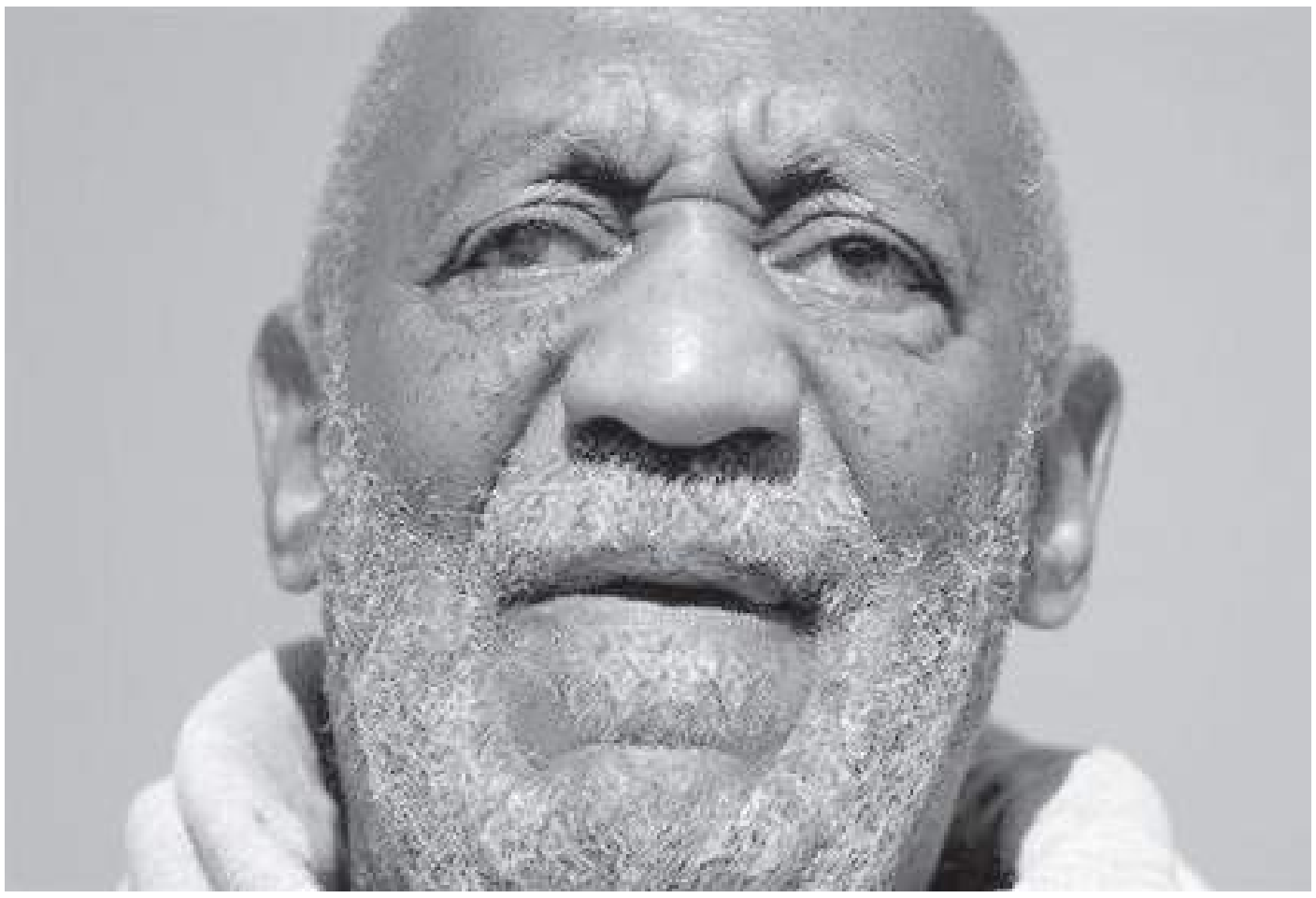
"Hon, I need you to answer me please," she wrote.

Silence.

Life & Style

Cosby detailed his womanizing, secrecy efforts a decade ago

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
In this Nov. 11, 2014, file photo, comedian and Navy veteran Bill Cosby speaks during a Veterans Day ceremony in Philadelphia.

Under oath in a hotel away from the TV cameras and the soapbox where he did his public moralizing—Bill Cosby sketched a very different image of America's Dad: a philanderer who plied young women with quaaludes, claimed to be adept at reading their unspoken desires and used his wealth to keep "Mrs. Cosby" in the dark.

The portrait comes from Cosby's own words in a transcript of a 2005-06 deposition taken in Philadelphia. It is the only publicly available testimony he has given in response to accusations he drugged and sexually assaulted dozens of women over four decades. Cosby has denied the allegations, calling the sexual contact consensual.

In his testimony, the comedian told of how he tried to gain women's trust and make them comfortable by talking about their families, their education and their career aspirations.

He seemed casual about his affairs, describing his relationship with one woman this way: "We had sex and we had dinners and sex and rendezvous."

Asked how it ended, he said: "Stopped calling for rendezvous."

Why? "Just moving on."

There's no clear-cut evidence in the documents that he committed a sex crime, but his testimony adds to the unsavory details that have all but wrecked his nice-guy reputation as TV's Dr. Cliff Huxtable and made a mockery of his preaching about decency and personal responsibility.

The full transcript, obtained by The Associated Press on Sunday, is from a lawsuit filed by a former Temple University employee who accused the comedian of drugging and molesting her. Earlier this month, a judge unsealed small excerpts from the transcript as a result of a lawsuit from the AP.

The New York Times was the first to obtain the entire transcript, after learning it was publicly available through a court reporting service.

In the deposition, Cosby said that on one occasion, he reached into Temple employee Andrea Constand's pants and fondled her, taking her silence as a green light.

"I don't hear her say anything. And I don't feel her say anything. And so I continue and I go into the area that is somewhere between permission and rejection. I am not stopped," he said.

He said she then groped him in return. Later that night, he said, he tried to have more sexual contact with her, but she said no, and "I pull back."

He said that he avoided intercourse with her, suggesting he was afraid she would become too attached to him. Intercourse, he said, "is something that I feel the woman will succumb to more of a romance and more of a feeling, not love, but it's deeper than a playful situation."

He said Constand was not upset when she left that night, and he assured his questioner: "I think I'm a pretty decent reader of people and their emotions in these romantic sexual things, whatever you want to call them."

'Ant-Man' debuts with $58M; 'Trainwreck' opens with $30.2M

NEW YORK (AP)—Marvel's "Ant-Man" punched above its weight at the weekend box office, debuting with an estimated $58 million, while Amy Schumer's "Trainwreck" also opened strongly with $30.2 million.

The result for "Ant-Man" didn't match some of Marvel's better known and brawnier properties. But "Ant-Man"—a relatively inexpensive superhero movie with a $130 million budget—still dominated North American multiplexes, edging out the little yellow guys of Universal's "Minions," which took in $50.2 million in its second week.

"Ant-Man," starring Paul Rudd as a slightly more irreverent and distinctly smaller superhero, came in a little below earlier stand-alone Marvel films like "Thor" ($65.7 million in 2011) and "Captain America: The First Avenger" ($65.1 million in 2011).

Dave Hollis, head of distribution at Disney, credited Marvel for successfully expanding its universe both in tone and audience makeup. The movie, a more humorous heist film, appealed more to women (42 percent of the audience) and families (28 percent) than most Marvel releases.

AP
This photo provided by Disney shows Paul Rudd as Scott Lang/Ant-Man in a scene from Marvel's "Ant-Man."

"Most encouragingly in this one, the exit scores we're seeing from women—their likelihood to recommend and how much they enjoyed the film—was higher here than almost any film we've had," Hollis said. "It's a great sign for what word of mouth should be for the run, but, two, what it means for how women think about these movies being for them as much as men might."

"I say this was a success," said Paul Dergarabedian, Rentrak's senior media analyst. "This was never predestined to open with $80 (million) or $100 million. Marvel continues to evolve and surprised the audience. This was about a perfectly solid result for a brand new property."

The $30.2 million opening for Schumer's big-screen debut, "Trainwreck," which the comedian also wrote, earned an estimated $30.2 million, making the R-rated Universal release one of the biggest comedy successes this summer. It's also the second best opening for Judd Apatow as a director following "Knocked Up."

Opening in just five locations was Woody Allen's "Irrational Man," starring Joaquin Phoenix and Emma Stone. The Sony Pictures Classic release packed those theaters for an average of $37,623 per screen.

The Roadside Attractions and Miramax release "Mr. Holmes," starring Ian McKellen as an aged Sherlock Holmes, debuted with $2.5 million in 363 theaters.

1. **"Ant-Man,"** $58 million ($56.4 million international).
2. **"Minions,"** $50.2 million ($66.2 million international).
3. **"Trainwreck,"** $30.2 million.
4. **"Inside Out,"** $11.7 million ($21. 3 million international).
5. **"Jurassic World,"** $11.4 million ($12.3 million international).
6. **"Terminator Genisys,"** $5.4 million ($22.2 million international).
7. **"Magic Mike XXL,"** $4.5 million ($5.8 million international).
8. **"Gallows,"** $4 million ($2.1 million international).
9. **"Ted 2,"** $2.7 million ($7.5 million international).
10. **"Mr. Holmes,"** $2.5 million.

SIDEBAR

Key details of Bill Cosby's decade-old deposition

Key details from a deposition Bill Cosby gave in a civil suit filed by a woman who has publicly accused him of drugging and molesting her:

Cosby begins the deposition with a joke.

After being asked by the plaintiff's lawyer if he will try to remember not to give nonverbal responses, the transcript says: (Witness gestures.)

The lawyer says everyone does the same thing. Cosby replies, "This is not a new joke?"

Cosby describes giving what he said was Benadryl to the plaintiff, Andrea Constand, before a sexual encounter at his home. Cosby said that he described the three broken pills he brought downstairs as "friends," but that he didn't tell her it was Benadryl and gave it to her hoping that she would be able to fall asleep.

Constand thought Cosby was giving her an herbal remedy, she said in her lawsuit.

Constand did not fall asleep and Cosby testified that they had a sexual encounter

Constand's attorney questions Cosby about a phone call to Constand's mother, which she recorded. Cosby says the call was confrontational but he hoped Constand would tell her mother she was awake during the encounter.

"I'm not going to argue with somebody's mother who is accusing me of something," Cosby says.

Cosby says he apologized twice because of the age difference between the two.

"I'm thinking this is a dirty old man with a young girl," he says. "I apologized."

Cosby described "looking for permission" to get physically closer to Constand but stopping when she declined or said not to continue. Once, when Cosby said he had exposed Constand's breasts, "Andrea said to me either one of two words, stop, no. I pull back."

The deposition also contains details Cosby supplied about his use of quaaludes during sexual encounters.

Cosby says he gave a woman the drug during their sexual relationship in the 1970s and, when asked if the woman knew she was taking quaaludes, Cosby replies, "I believe so."

The lawyer presses Cosby, asking, "Did you say, 'here's quaaludes?"

Cosby replies, "Yes."

Cosby acknowledges obtaining the quaaludes from a now-deceased doctor in Los Angeles, ostensibly for back pain.

"I asked him if he would give me some of those quaaludes," Cosby says, saying the doctor asked him if he had a "bad back or anything, and I said yes."

Cosby explained that he wanted them for non-medical reasons.

Man drowns in pool owned by Demi Moore

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 21-year-old man accidentally drowned in the backyard pool of a Los Angeles home owned by actress Demi Moore on Sunday morning, coroner's officials said.

Los Angeles police responded to the home in west Los Angeles after a 911 call at about 5:15 a.m., and the man was pronounced dead at 5:30 a.m., Lt. Fred Corral of the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner said.

Los Angeles police Officer Mike Lopez, a department spokesman, said Moore was not home at the time of the drowning and her assistant was having a gathering at the home with about half-a-dozen people, including the man who drowned.

The man, Edenilson Steven Valle, had gone missing for 10 or 15 minutes before his friends found him floating in the deep end of the pool early Sunday morning, said Los Angeles County coroner's Lt. Fred Corral.

Valle's family and friends told investigators he didn't know how to swim, Corral said.

Moore said she is stunned and saddened by Valle's death.

"I am in absolute shock," the 52-year-old actress said in a statement released through her publicist, Heidi Lopata. "I was out of the country traveling to meet my daughters for a birthday celebration when I got the devastating news."

Moore said the death was an "unthinkable tragedy, and my heart goes out to this young man's family and friends."

Police and paramedics responded to the home in west Los Angeles after a 911 call at about 5:15 a.m.

The paramedics started CPR, but Valle was pronounced dead at the scene at 5:30 a.m., Corral said.

The apparent drowning was first reported by TMZ.

Rocco, who played Moe Greene in 'The Godfather,' dies at 79

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rocco, the Emmy-winning character actor best known for taking a bullet through the eye as the Las Vegas casino boss Moe Greene in "The Godfather," has died. He was 79.

Rocco's daughter, Jennifer, announced his death Saturday. Details were not immediately available.

Rocco's career spanned five decades, and he remained active up until his death, including a recurring role on the Starz series "Magic City." His distinctively gravelly voice made him a frequent tough-guy presence in both hardboiled tales ("The Friends of Eddie Coyle," "St. Valentine's Day Massacre," "Get Shorty") and comedic sitcoms ("The Simpsons," "The Facts of Life").

His most famous role came in 1972's "The Godfather," where he played the humbled casino owner who meets his fate on a massage table, with a bullet through his thick eyeglass lenses. His confrontation with Al Pacino's Michael Corleone—in which he condescended to the new boss: "I made my bones when you were going out with cheerleaders!"—was among the movie's many indelible scenes.

"Without a doubt, my biggest ticket anywhere," Rocco told the AV Club in 2012. "I went for. I dunno, one of the Italian parts. Maybe the Richard Bright part. But Coppola goes, `I got my Jew!' And I went, `Oh no, Mr. Coppola, I'm Italian. I wouldn't know how to play a Jew.' And he goes, `Oh, shut up.'"

The Boston-born Rocco also memorably voiced the cigar-smoking studio head of "Itchy and Scratchy" on "The Simpsons." And he played Charlie Polniaczek on the 1980s sitcom "The Facts of Life."

He won an Emmy for best supporting actor in a comedy series in 1990 for the short-lived Jon Cryer sitcom "The Famous Teddy Z."

Born on Feb. 29, 1936, as Alessandro Federico Petricone Jr. in Cambridge, Mass., Rocco studied acting under Leonard Nimoy on his arrival to Los Angeles. His first role was in a Russ Meyer film, 1965's "Motor Psycho."

AP

In this Sept. 16, 1990 file photo, actor Alex Rocco holds up his Emmy award for best supporting actor in a television comedy series for his role in "The Famous Teddy Z," during his acceptance speech at the 42nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards in Pasadena, Calif.

Comedian Dave Chappelle speaks out about comeback

AP

Comedian Dave Chappelle speaks at the RUSH Philanthropic Arts Foundation's Art for Life Benefit at Fairview Farms in Water Mill on Saturday, July 18, 2015, in New York.

BRIDGEHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Dave Chappelle's return to the comedy stage comes at a racially charged time in the U.S., but the comedian, who never shied away from racial issues, says that's just a coincidence.

"I think it is important to be out now, but what's going on in the world isn't why I initially came back out," Chappelle told The Associated Press on Saturday. He was on Long Island at the Art For Life benefit, where he received an award from Russell Simmons' Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation.

"This is a very surprisingly emotionally charged time, so people like me, I think, are very relevant and necessary in sorting through all this information and emotional content," he said. "And when we are at our best, hopefully we are doing a great service to many people."

During his acceptance speech Chappelle said the arts education he received in high school in Washington, D.C., saved him.

The event raised funds for arts in schools and other programs that benefit children and emerging artists. Chappelle, who had a show on Comedy Central that he famoulsy left, had the audeince laughing when he told them, "I can say honestly that I'm happy, that I can sit at home on a Tuesday night and watch Key and Peele do my show and it doesn't hurt me."

Comedians Key and Peele have been compared to Chappelle.

Chappelle told the audience that artists have a responsibility to be activists in some way.

"The biggest enemy of an artist is apathy," he said. Then he added, "A kid gets killed by the poilice and I buy a T-shirt and before I can wear that one, there's another kid (killed) and I'm running out of closet space."

Auctioneers Michaela and Simon de Pury, filmmaker Ava DuVernay, and artist Wangechi Mutu also received awards at the event.

Hospital worker violated law by reading husband's records

DEAR ABBY: "Concerned in Massachusetts" (Feb. 20) used her status as a hospital employee to access her husband's medical records and found a history of STDs. I'm a registered nurse with 40 years' experience. Every healthcare organization I know of teaches all their employees about HIPAA violations and that accessing private patient medical information is a criminal offense. It is essential that patients know they can trust us to protect their privacy. We have specific policies against using one's employee status to access a relative's medical information.

"Concerned" is lucky she still has a job. At my institution, she would be terminated for violating organizational policy and federal law. She wouldn't have to worry about how to broach the subject with her husband; she'd be explaining why she was fired. He may not be a saint, but neither is she. Her actions were unacceptable and reflect a clear lack of integrity and honesty.

SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

DEAR SAFEGUARDING: Thank you for your informed response. You are not the only reader who was appalled at what "Concerned" had done. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Like "Concerned's" husband, I, too, am labeled as high risk for STDs based on a medical survey I completed, although I have had a monogamous 30-year marriage and do not do drugs of any kind. In that survey, they asked how many partners I had in my lifetime. Those few other partners were before I met my wife.

"Concerned" indicated that her husband had been treated twice for STDs "some years back." What does that mean? Were they married then? If not, is he labeled high risk due to his previous behavior? Perhaps there is something deeper in the relationship that needs addressing—such as why there are weeks between sexual contact with her husband.

It's ironic that she's bent out of shape over infidelity concerns, but thinks it acceptable to betray the privacy and ethics rules governing medical professionals.

VINCENT IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: "Young at Heart in Texas" (Feb. 9) could have written my story. I am also a 70-year-old man who is sexually dysfunctional. I, too, was lonely, having outlived two of my brides. However, I did find someone who appreciates holding hands and whispering sweet words without more physical contact.

Abby, you said: "Not only do I think you can (find companionship), I suspect you may need police protection to control the crowd of applicants. Years ago, my aunt, the late Ann Landers, polled her female readers asking if they would prefer 'holding and cuddling' to actually doing 'the deed.' The majority of them answered in the affirmative."

My first wife died of a heart attack after 30 years of marriage. My second wife died after eight years of marriage, of kidney cancer. At 71, I married my third wife, a wonderful woman just as you both describe. She was my next-door neighbor. We have been married three years and nine months. (The Bible says, "Love thy neighbor," so I married her!) We also enjoy cuddling, even without doing "the deed."

So I say to "Young at Heart in Texas": YES, you can find a woman such as you and Abby describe. And when you do, I suggest you rub her back often. Women love it!

YOUNG AT HEART IN COLORADO

DEAR YOUNG AT HEART: I'm glad your story had a happy ending, and I'm crossing my fingers that "Young at Heart's" will, too. Thanks for writing to encourage him.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

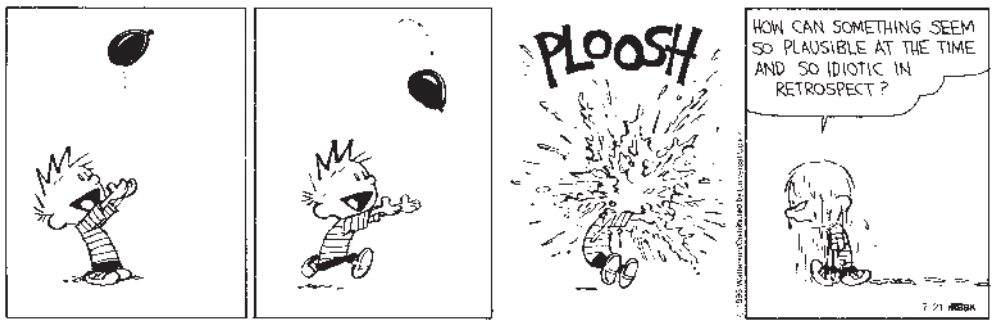
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

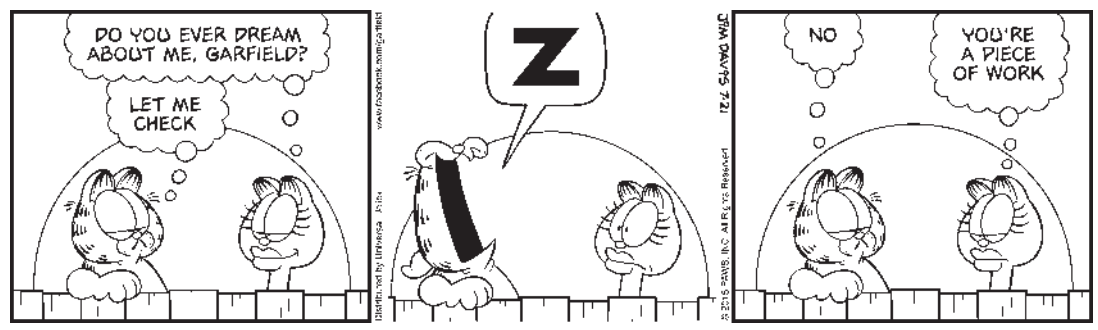
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



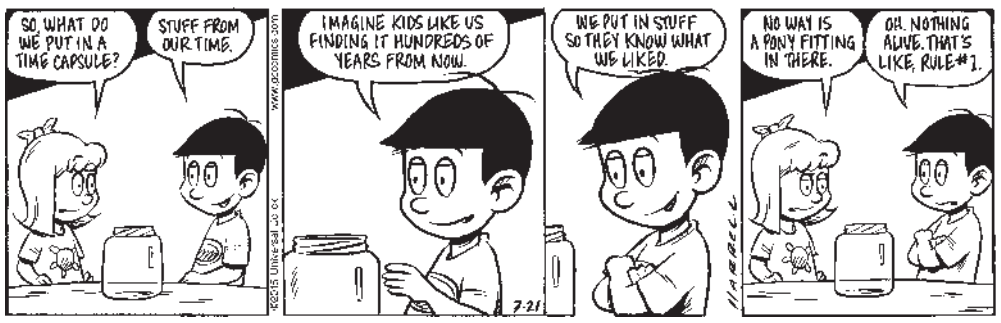
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



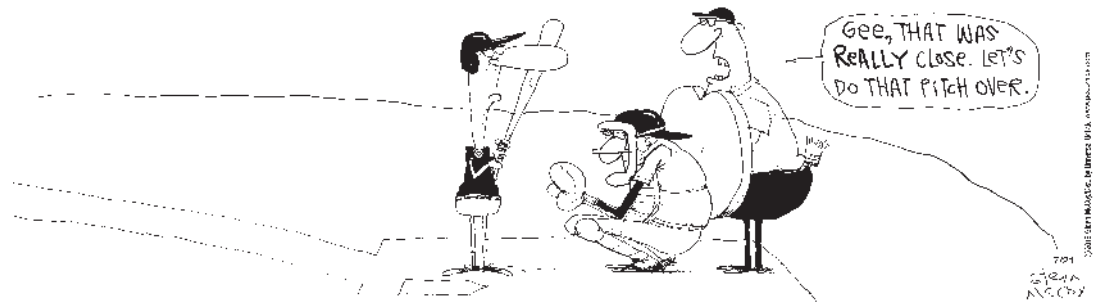
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, WHAT DO WE PUT IN A TIME CAPSULE?
STUFF FROM OUR TIME.
IMAGINE KIDS LIKE US FINDING IT HUNDREDS OF YEARS FROM NOW.
WE PUT IN STUFF SO THEY KNOW WHAT WE LIKED.
NO WAY IS A PONY FITTING IN THERE.
OH. NOTHING ALIVE. THAT'S LIKE, RULE #1.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

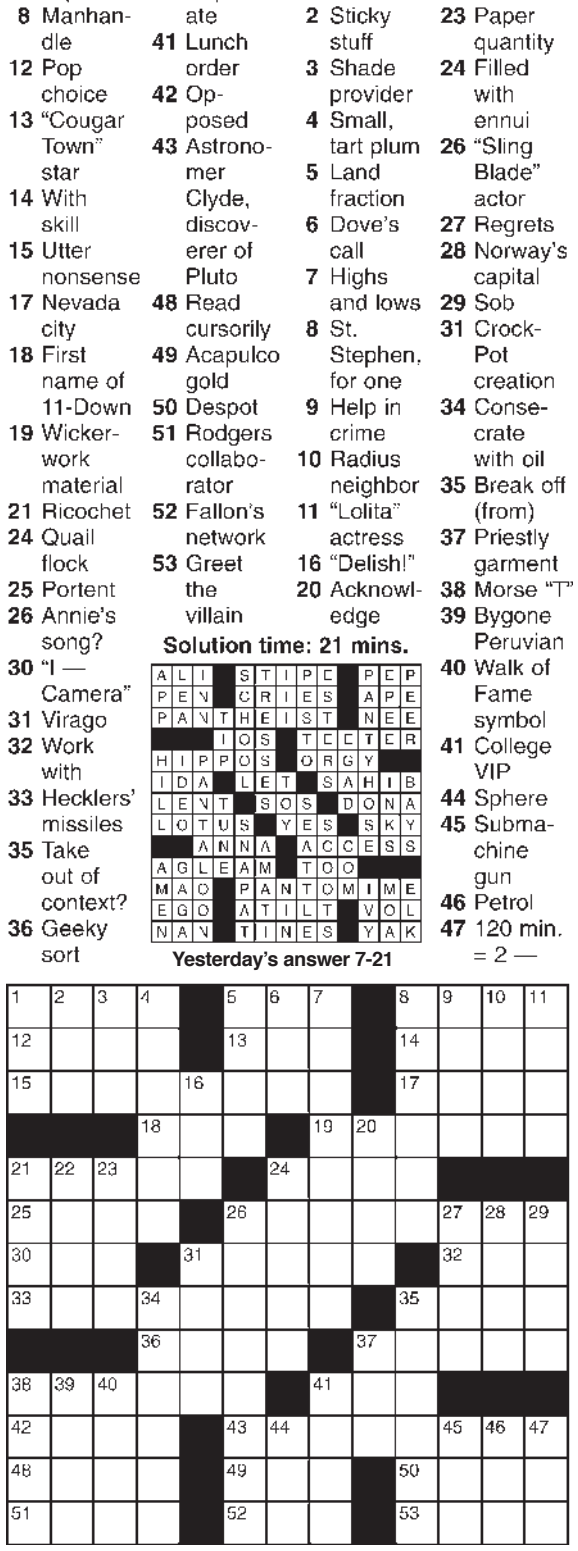
ACROSS
1 Elderly
5 Top card
8 Manhandle
12 Pop choice
13 "Cougar Town" star
14 With skill
15 Utter nonsense
17 Nevada city
18 First name of 11-Down
19 Wickerwork material
21 Ricochet
24 Quail flock
25 Portent
26 Annie's song?
30 "I — Camera"
31 Virago
32 Work with
33 Hecklers' missiles
35 Take out of context?
36 Geeky sort
37 Man of morals?
38 Repudiate
41 Lunch order
42 Opposed
43 Astronomer Clyde, discoverer of Pluto
48 Read cursorily
49 Acapulco gold
50 Despot
51 Rodgers collaborator
52 Fallon's network
53 Greet the villain

DOWN
1 Performance
2 Sticky stuff
3 Shade provider
4 Small, tart plum
5 Land fraction
6 Dove's call
7 Highs and lows
8 St. Stephen, for one
9 Help in crime
10 Radius neighbor
11 "Lolita" actress
16 "Delish!"
20 Acknowledge
21 Layer
22 Bullets and such
23 Paper quantity
24 Filled with ennui
26 "Sling Blade" actor
27 Regrets
28 Norway's capital
29 Sob
31 Crock-Pot creation
34 Consecrate with oil
35 Break off (from)
37 Priestly garment
38 Morse "T"
39 Bygone Peruvian
40 Walk of Fame symbol
41 College VIP
44 Sphere
45 Submachine gun
46 Petrol
47 120 min. = 2 —

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	I		S	T	I	P	E		P	E	P
P	E	N		C	R	I	E	S		A	P	E
P	A	N	T	H	E	I	S	T		N	E	E
			I	O	S		T	E	E	T	E	R
H	I	P	P	O	S		O	R	G	Y		
I	D	A		L	E	T		S	A	H	I	B
L	E	N	T		S	O	S		D	O	N	A
L	O	T	U	S		Y	E	S		S	K	Y
		A	N	N	A		A	C	C	E	S	S
A	G	L	E	A	M		T	O	O			
M	A	O		P	A	N	T	O	M	I	M	E
E	G	O		A	T	I	L	T		V	O	L
N	A	N		T	I	N	E	S		Y	A	K

Yesterday's answer 7-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juno Temple, 26; Justin Bartha, 37; Josh Hartnett, 37; Jon Lovitz, 58.

HappyBirthday: Charm, dedication and practical improvements will ensure your success this year. Don't worry too much about what others do. Take the path that promises to help you get ahead mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Choices should be made based on what will bring you the most in return, not on what is best for others. It's OK to be self-centered. Your numbers are 1, 13, 17, 25, 28, 34, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put an end to your relationships with people who don't give back. You have to rid yourself of hangers-on or those willing to let you do all the work. Greater opportunities will surface if you work alongside other enthusiastic participants. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan a day trip or get involved in community activities that will open up doors and give you a say in what takes place in your neighborhood or within your family. Sharing personal experiences will help you make good choices. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will face opposition in your personal life if you are indulgent or uncompromising. Don't let your emotions take over when you need to think matters through carefully and calculate the outcome you want to accomplish. ✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Participate in events that will allow you to show off your skills. An original idea you have will interest someone in forming a partnership. Speak from the heart and you will get what you want and more. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be surprised what you find out if you listen and do your research on the people or companies you are dealing with. Your insights will help you make choices that are bound to result in advancement. When opportunity knocks, take action. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Call the shots rather than yield to what others tell you to do. Take hold of whatever situations you face and offer practical, sound suggestions. Your direct, clean approach will attract followers and favors. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep a clear head and a tolerant attitude. You will meet opposition if you try to push others to do things your way. Work alone if possible and you will accomplish far more. Accept that difficulties are inevitable and keep moving forward. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you go about your business and do things your way, others will take interest and join in. Book a trip or do research online until you find something that motivates you to head in an entirely new direction. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone will not be honest with you about their motivations and interests. Be careful not to reveal too much when discussing your plans with others. A sudden change in your personal finances is best handled cautiously. Don't shirk your responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A changing situation must be handled with care. Don't let emotions interfere with doing what you know in your heart is best for everyone. Use discipline to guide you in the right direction and you won't have any regrets. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change in your earning power is apparent if you make a proposal, set up an interview or offer something unique that is trendy and can fill a need in your community. Don't hold back when you have so much to offer. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in social circles and try your hand at something you might like to do in order to earn an income. Consider new opportunities and make arrangements to get the skills and knowledge required to move forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are resolute, determined and possessive. You are loyal and patient.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9		4		7		
	6		2		5		1	
2								6
	2		1		7		6	
8								9
	1		8		2		4	
4								1
	3		9		6		5	
		6		5		2		

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	5	3	2	7	1	4	9
7	4	3	9	6	1	5	8	2
2	1	9	8	5	4	3	7	6
5	3	7	2	1	8	9	6	4
6	2	8	4	9	5	7	3	1
4	9	1	7	3	6	2	5	8
3	5	2	6	4	9	8	1	7
1	8	6	5	7	2	4	9	3
9	7	4	1	8	3	6	2	5

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHOPAHOLICS — Solution: 9 letters

G	S	E	S	R	O	M	E	R	E	R	O	T	S	O
C	N	D	Y	P	A	R	E	H	T	S	P	R	E	E
T	O	I	E	N	J	T	B	E	N	I	L	N	O	I
N	P	M	D	X	A	E	S	P	E	N	D	I	N	G
E	U	A	P	I	A	A	W	Ⓒ	Ⓐ	Ⓢ	Ⓗ	O	D	O
M	O	L	L	U	H	M	E	E	K	T	S	M	E	O
T	C	L	T	C	L	R	O	C	L	E	T	M	C	D
A	D	Y	R	E	Y	S	A	O	L	R	O	E	O	S
E	O	U	A	E	N	N	I	A	D	T	Y	D	R	S
R	P	C	N	S	K	R	S	V	I	E	R	N	E	N
T	A	O	H	K	L	O	E	O	E	O	B	C	I	S
R	M	P	C	A	M	A	N	T	F	D	R	T	E	Y
A	I	I	A	Z	B	A	E	F	N	E	I	O	S	O
C	N	N	I	Y	L	I	A	D	T	I	H	H	A	T
K	E	G	A	D	G	E	T	S	E	S	U	C	X	E

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Yesterday's Answer: H. pylori

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 or 43,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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- (04) Heavy Equipment Operators
- (10) Building Maintenance Repairers
- (03) AC Technicians

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Duties: Work with corporate officers in planning, formulating and establishing a business plan and sales strategy to attain company's sales goals and objectives. Manage and direct activities of sales personnel and ensure that company's sales techniques and price guidelines are being followed. Establish and maintain business relationships with customers and negotiate sales contracts. Resolve any customer concerns or complaints regarding sales and service. Maintain records of all sales activities; monitor customer preferences to determine focus of sales efforts; and analyze pricing points and volume in order to make necessary modifications in sales strategy to improve wholesale sales and keep the company competitive. Plan and direct promotional activities and opportunities for expansion of company's product lines and market areas.

Two (2) Sales and Marketing Representative
Minimum qualifications: Associate's degree (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience in job offered, as a sales representative or marketing representative.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Assists Sales Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

Two (2) Sales Representative
Minimum qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent).
Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

One (1) Computer Programmer
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in computer programming or two-year course in computer programming (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two years experience as a computer programmer.
Duties: Design, update, integrate, implement, and operate computer programs and software packages for sales, accounting, inventory marketing and other management information. Maintain, set-up and operate computer system. Correct errors by making appropriate changes and rechecking the program to ensure that the desired results are produced. Perform systems analysis and programming tasks to ensure efficient use of computer programs and systems. Consult with management regarding problems and suggested changes to computer programs.

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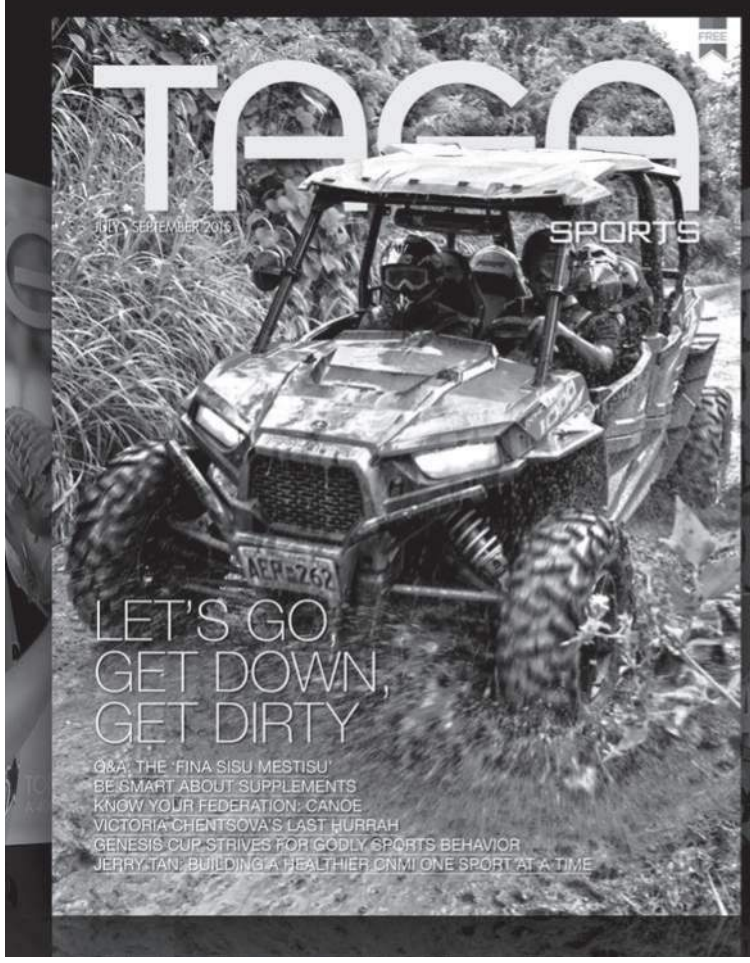
Minimum qualifications: Four years experience as a graphic artist for wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Designs and creates visual products to meet company's promotional needs, including designing and creating promotional displays and marketing brochures, signs and signage systems, packaging, menus, and other visual products. Formulates visual marketing campaign and overall design concepts for company to reach target markets. Applies critical thinking and problem solving analysis to various design concepts and approaches that can be utilized to attain the desired effect on the target market. Creates innovative design solutions utilizing knowledge of graphic design theory and methodologies in conjunction with current cultural trends, market demographics, cultural preferences, and seasonal shifts to achieve optimum market response. Produces and coordinates the execution of mock-up and final graphic design and artwork for the visual products.

One (1) Building Maintenance Repairer
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as building maintenance repairer.
Duties: Repairs and maintains the building structures and equipment of the company's commercial and industrial premises, including such duties as pipe fitting, insulating, welding, machining, carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings. Performs routine preventive maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, or the physical condition of buildings does not deteriorate. Inspects, operates, or tests machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Assembles, installs, or repairs wiring, electrical or electronic components, pipe systems, plumbing, machinery, or equipment. Repairs or replaces defective equipment parts, using hand tools and power tools, and reassembles equipment. Records type and cost of maintenance or repair work.

One (1) Building Custodian
Minimum qualifications: Three months experience as building custodian or maintenance worker.
Duties: Keeps buildings and business premises in clean and orderly condition. Performs cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish from inside and outside of business premises. Performs routine maintenance activities and notifies management of need for repairs. Requisition supplies or equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties.

One (1) Automotive Mechanic
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as an automotive mechanic.
Duties: Repairs automobiles, trucks, vans, and other vehicles. Operates and inspects vehicles to analyze and diagnose malfunctions and required repairs. Tears down, repairs, and rebuilds faulty assemblies such as power systems, steering systems, and linkages. Repairs, relines, replaces, and adjusts brakes. Repairs and services air conditioning, heating, engine-cooling, and electrical systems. Tears down, repairs, rebuilds, or replaces worn or defective parts; reassembles and adjusts repaired equipment and systems; and tests repaired equipment and systems to ensure operating efficiency. Repairs or replaces parts such as pistons, rods, gears, valves, and bearings. Rewires ignition systems, lights, and instrument panels. Repairs manual and automatic transmissions. Installs and repairs accessories such as radios, heaters, mirrors, and windshield wipers. Repairs or replaces shock absorbers. Replaces and adjusts headlights. Overhauls or replaces carburetors, blowers, generators, distributors, starters, and pumps. Repairs radiator leaks. Aligns vehicles' front ends. Rebuilds parts such as crankshafts and cylinder blocks. Repairs damaged automobile bodies. Performs routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrications, and tune-ups. Performs other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.


TAGA
SPORTS
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015
LET'S GO, GET DOWN, GET DIRTY
Q&A: THE 'FINA SISU MESTISU'
BE SMART ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS
KNOW YOUR FEDERATION: CANOE
VICTORIA CHENTSOVA'S LAST HURRAH
GENESIS CUP STRIVES FOR GODLY SPORTS BEHAVIOR
JERRY TAN: BUILDING A HEALTHIER CNMI ONE SPORT AT A TIME

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Spieth, amateur Dunne eyeing history at St. Andrews

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—For a place dripping with centuries of history, St. Andrews got more than it could have wanted Sunday.

Jordan Spieth punched his golf bag in frustration after a careless bogey, perhaps sensing the British Open was slipping away. Just like that, and because this is what Spieth does in big moments, he salvaged his bid for a Grand Slam. He made three straight birdies. He took 10 putts on the inward nine. And when he walked off the 18th green, he had a 6-under 66 and was one shot behind with one round left.

"I'm going to play to win," Spieth said. "I'm not playing for a place. I don't want to place third tomorrow. I want to win."

But if there is history in the making at the home of golf, it no longer has to come from just Spieth.

Fans who filled the two-story grandstand and watched from the tops of buildings on Golf Place witnessed a moment not seen at St. Andrews in 88 years—an amateur in the lead going into the final round of the British Open.

Paul Dunne, the 22-year-old from Ireland, rolled in putts like this was the prestigious St. Andrews Links Trophy for amateurs instead of the oldest championship in golf. He played bogey-free for a 66 and shared the lead with former Open champion Louis Oosthuizen and Jason Day.

AP

United States' Jordan Spieth drives the ball from the 18th tee during the third round of the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Sunday, July 19, 2015.

Bobby Jones is the last amateur to win the British Open in 1930 when he came from one shot behind in the final round. He was the last amateur to lead after 54 holes three years earlier at St. Andrews, and he won the claret jug that year, too.

Can it happen again?

"It's surreal I'm leading the Open, but I can easily believe that I shot the three scores that I shot," Dunne said. "If we were playing an amateur event here, I wouldn't be too surprised by the scores I shot. It's just lucky that it happens to be in the biggest event in the world.

"Hopefully, I can do it again tomorrow," he said. "But whether I do or not, I'll survive either way."

The way the weather-delayed Open ended on Sunday, expect just about anything.

Oosthuizen, the last player to lift the claret jug at St. Andrews in 2010 and a runner-up at the U.S. Open last month, birdied three of his last five holes for a 67. Day is just as big of a threat. He shot 67 and shared the lead for the second straight major, and he has challenged in four of them since 2011.

They were at 12-under 214, one shot ahead of Spieth with plenty of others that cannot be dismissed Fourteen players were separated by three shots. Half of them were major champions, and there was yet another amateur among them—21-year-old Jordan Niebrugge of Oklahoma State.

Such an opportunity might not come around again for Spieth. Only three other players won the first two legs of the Grand Slam since the modern version began in 1960. Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods only got one shot at it, and none ever started the final round of the British Open so close to the lead.

And so it was Spieth, a 21-year-old Texan with an uncanny sense of occasion, who brought the gray, old town to life in a mixture of sunshine and rain. He rolled in birdie putts on the 10th, 11th and 12th holes to share the lead. He saved par from the high grass on the 13th, stuffed his approach to 4 feet for birdie on the 15th and made another tough par save on the Road Hole at the 17th.

A victory would send him to the PGA Championship with a shot at the Grand Slam, and at worse put him in elite company. Ben Hogan in 1953 is the only other player to capture the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in the same year.

"Only one person has ever done it before. That opportunity very rarely comes around," Spieth said. "And I'd like to have a chance to do something nobody has ever done. ... To be able to go into the last major and accomplish something that's never been done in our sport is something that only comes around to a couple people ever. And I'd like to be one of those people to have that happen."

Rarely has the Old Course been as easy as it was Sunday.

One day after raging wind off the Eden Estuary caused a 10-hour delay and forced a Monday finish, the flags were soaked from passing showers and limp from no wind. The leaderboards were loaded with birdies, and seven players had at least a share of the lead at some point in the third round.

That's what made Dustin Johnson's collapse so shocking. With a one-shot lead after powering his way around St. Andrews for 36 holes, he was the last player in the field to make a birdie Sunday, and that wasn't until the 15th hole. He followed with three straight bogeys for a 75 to fall five shots behind.

Spieth, the youngest professional in the field, seemed calm despite the historic moment in front of him.

His goal at the start of the week was to treat the British Open like any other tournament he was trying to win. Even during the long delay on Saturday, he said he hasn't thought much about the slam. There is no escaping it now, and Spieth doesn't see that as a problem.

"If I have a chance coming down the stretch, if it creeps in, I'll embrace it," he said. "I'll embrace the opportunity that presents itself. As far as handling it, I don't look at it as a negative thing. I look at it almost as an advantage. Why should it add more pressure in a negative way?"

Family, faith, fortune, football comes together for Thomas

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Demaryius Thomas hit the jackpot this week—48 hours BEFORE signing his $70 million contract.

The Denver Broncos star receiver awoke Monday morning to see he'd missed two calls from the Federal Correctional Institution in Tallahassee, Florida.

He jumped out of bed.

His heart and mind both raced.

Suddenly, footballs and fortunes were no match for faith and family.

Could this really be happening?

"I knew it was something because I've never seen her call me that early," Thomas said Friday.

His stared at his phone, awaiting another call.

Ten minutes crept by before his phone buzzed again.

"Hello, mama."

Katina Smith, who's been jailed since 1999 after she and her mother were busted on drug trafficking charges in Georgia, had great news: President Barack Obama was commuting her sentence.

Instead of getting out of prison in 2017, she'll be released to a halfway house in Macon, Georgia, by the end of this month.

And sometime this season, she'll get to see her son play football for the first time in her life.

"She'll probably be nervous," Thomas said. "She's never flown."

She'll even get to wear one of her son's orange No. 88 jerseys. An authentic one this time—not like the ones she and her mother, Minnie Pearl Thomas, who's serving a life sentence in the same minimum-security prison in Florida, had to craft with strips of tape on their prison-issued garb as they gathered around the TV set to watch Broncos games.

Smith was one of 46 nonviolent drug offenders whose sentences were cut by the president this week.

"It was a blessing," Thomas said.

Thomas said he spoke again with his mother after signing his big deal that includes $43.5 million guaranteed and is the largest in franchise history and "she's still happy she's about to get out, she's not worried about the contract."

Neither, it seems, is Thomas.

Thomas said his mother's big news made his big payday secondary. After all, he said he was prepared to play this season on the $12.823 million franchise tag if the sides didn't reach a long-term deal by the deadline Wednesday.

"I was like, whatever's going to happen, I'm still going to be playing here no matter what and if it had to go down to franchise, I would be in the same situation next year, trying to get the deal done," he said.

Although Thomas skipped the Broncos' offseason program, he said he would have shown up for the start of training camp July 30 even without a long-term deal. He didn't want to miss any games or get off to a slow start like he did last year after missing the start of camp following the death of his fraternal grandmother.

With financial security and his mother's pending freedom, Thomas can focus on adjusting to new coach Gary Kubiak's offense now.

"I want to lead the league in yards and touchdowns, basically about everything a receiver can do," he said. "But yeah, I kind of want to break the NFL record in yards."

That's Calvin Johnson's mark of 1,964 yards receiving set in 2012, something Thomas said is realistic even in Kubiak's run-oriented, two-tight end offense.

"There are big plays to be made," he said, figuring anything is possible after a week like this.

AP

In this Oct. 5, 2014, file photo, Denver Broncos wide receiver Demaryius Thomas (88) celebrates his touchdown against the Arizona Cardinals with fans during the first half of an NFL football game in Denver.

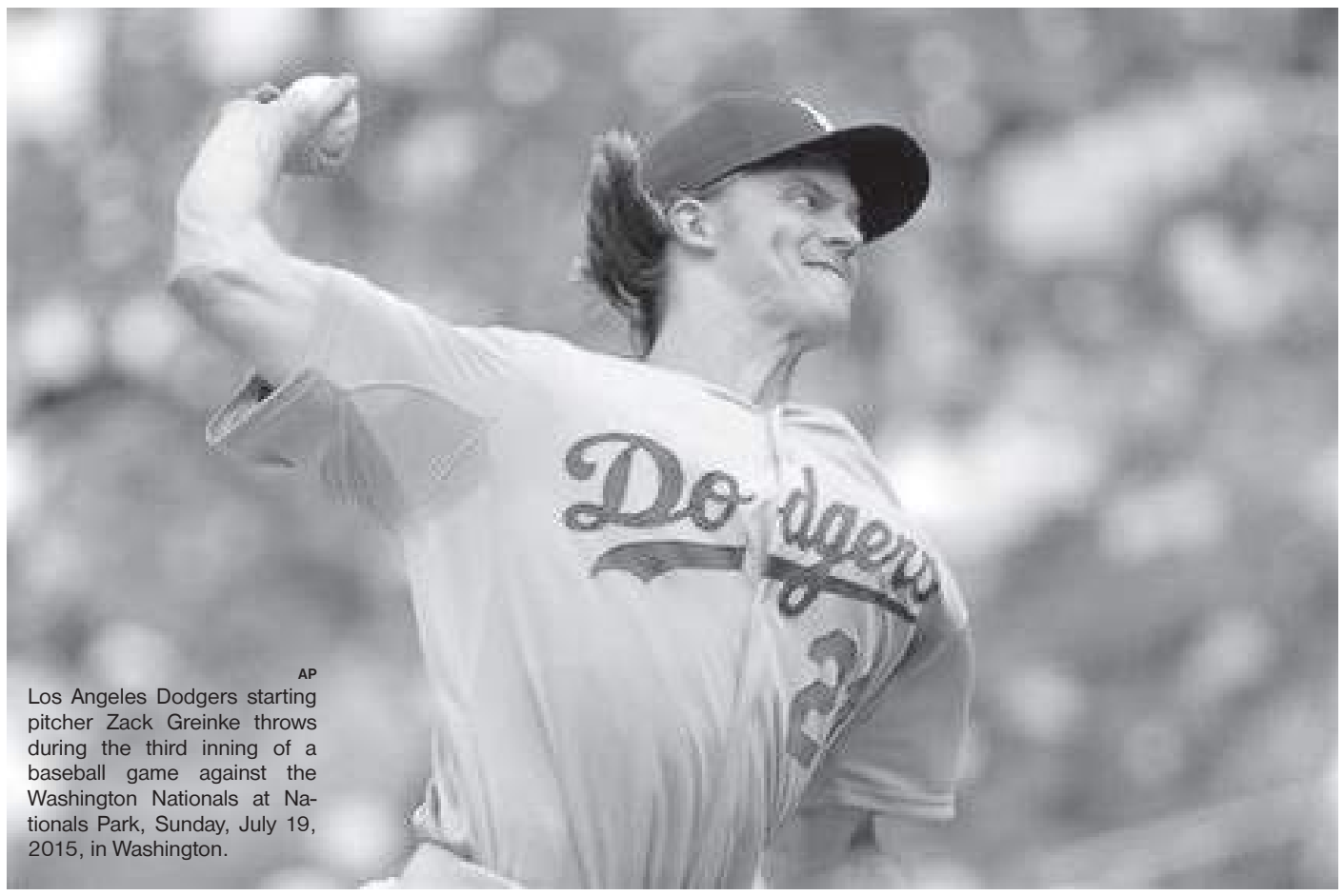
Greinke now with 43 2-3 scoreless innings, Dodgers top Nats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Zack Greinke extended his scoreless streak to 43 2/3 innings, striking out a season-high 11 through the eighth and leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Washington Nationals 5-0 on Sunday.

Greinke's string is the longest in the majors since Orel Hershiser set the major league record of 59 shutout innings in 1988 with the Dodgers. Greinke (9-2) leads the big leagues with a 1.30 ERA. He scattered three singles, walked one and threw 119 pitches in eight innings.

This was his sixth straight scoreless start, all of them lasting at least six innings. Last Tuesday night, Greinke started the All-Star Game and gave up a leadoff homer to Mike Trout, but that run doesn't count in the regular-season statistics.

Max Scherzer (10-8) gave up one run in six innings.



AP
Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Zack Greinke throws during the third inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Sunday, July 19, 2015, in Washington.

Mets 3, Cardinals 1, 18 innings

In St. Louis, Ruben Tejada hit a sacrifice fly in the 18th inning as the New York Mets outlasted the St. Louis Cardinals despite stranding 25 baserunners.

The Mets went 1 for 26 with runners in scoring position, yet still won the majors' second-longest game this season. Boston beat the Yankees in 19 innings in April. It took 5 hours, 55 minutes for the Mets to top the NL Central-leading Cardinals and avoid a three-game sweep.

Tejada hit a bases-loaded fly for the lead and Eric Campbell drove in another run with a squeeze bunt.

The game was scoreless until before both teams got a run in the 13th.

Carlos Torres (3-4), the seventh Mets pitcher, was the winner. Carlos Martinez (10-4) was pressed into relief and was the Cardinals' eighth pitcher.

Astros 10, Rangers 0

In Houston, Astros ace Dallas Keuchel struck out a career-high 13 in seven scoreless innings, leading Houston over the Texas Rangers.

Keuchel (12-4), the starting pitcher for the American League in the All-Star Game last Tuesday night, retired 18 straight batters during one stretch. The Rangers piled up a total of 29 hits in the first two games of the series, but couldn't do anything against Keuchel. He leads the AL with a 2.12 ERA.

Luis Valbuena had four hits and four RBIs, and Colby Rasmus and Preston Tucker had two-run homers.

Yovani Gallardo (7-9) yielded seven hits and tied a season-high with five runs in four-plus innings for his third straight loss.

Yankees 2, Mariners 1

In New York, Mark Teixeira homered with two outs in the eighth inning as the New York Yankees rallied for a victory over the Seattle Mariners for a series win.

On a steamy day with a game-time temperature of 92 degrees—a thermometer in the photographers' well down the first-base line read over 100—both Cy Young Award winning starters, CC Sabathia and Felix Hernandez, were done after six impressive innings with the score tied 1-all.

Teixeira connected on a 1-2 pitch from former closer Fernando Rodney (2-4), who had a new copper-colored beard and hairdo. Dellin Betances (6-2) walked two in the eighth, but got Mark Trumbo to pop out to end the threat. Andrew Miller finished for his 20th save in 20 chances.

Orioles 9, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Jonathan Schoop hit a three-run homer—part of Baltimore's six-run fourth inning against Justin Verlander—as the Orioles routed the Detroit Tigers.

Adam Jones also homered for the Orioles, and J.J. Hardy added a two-run double. Verlander (0-3) allowed seven runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings, another ugly start for a Detroit rotation that has suddenly become a weak link.

Both teams finished with 14 hits.

Miguel Gonzalez (8-6) allowed two runs and six hits in five innings. The Tigers (45-46) fell below .500 for the first time since they were 1-2 early in the 2013 season.

Royals 4, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Danny Duffy took a shutout into the ninth inning in the longest outing of his career as the surging Kansas City Royals beat Chris Sale and the Chicago White Sox.

Lorenzo Cain and Paulo Orlando homered as Kansas City (55-35) moved a season-high 20 games above .500. The AL Central leaders took three of four in the weekend series and have won 11 of 14 overall.

Duffy (4-4) gave up rookie Tyler Saladino's leadoff drive in the ninth for his first career homer. Joe Blanton then came in and got the last three outs for his first career save in his 278th major league game.

Sale (8-5) was tagged for a season-high 11 hits in 6 1/3 innings. The All-Star lefty gave up four runs, struck out six and walked one.

Athletics 14, Twins 1

In Oakland, California, Jake Smolinski homered twice for four RBIs and Josh Reddick hit a grand slam as the Oakland Athletics slugged past the Minnesota Twins.

Billy Butler and Josh Phegley hit two-run homers for the A's, who cleared the fences a season-high five times to boost their 2015 total to 80.

Jesse Chavez (5-9) struck out nine in six innings for his second highest total of the year. Smolinski followed Butler's third-inning home run with a solo drive off Tommy Milone (5-2) for his first clout with the A's. Reddick hit his third career grand slam in the fifth against J.R. Graham.

Blue Jays 4, Rays 0

In Toronto, Marco Estrada pitched eight shutout innings to outduel Chris Archer, and Chris Colabello and Jose Bautista each hit two-run homers as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Blue Jays snapped a streak of four straight series losses.

Estrada (7-5) allowed just two hits through the first seven innings, with both runners erased trying to steal.

Archer (9-7), who is winless in four starts, allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings.

Indians 5, Reds 3, 11 innings

In Cincinnati, Yan Gomes drew a bases-loaded walk to drive in the tiebreaking run in the 11th inning as the Cleveland Indians beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Jason Kipnis added a sacrifice fly in the 11th for Cleveland, which scored its first four runs on walks.

Pedro Villareal (1-3) gave up singles to Mike Aviles, Michael Bourn and Brandon Moss to open the 11th and load the bases. He then walked Gomes for force in the Indians' go-ahead run and Kipnis followed with his sacrifice fly.

Marc Rzepczynski (2-3) pitched two-thirds of an inning to get the win, and Zach McAllister got the last two outs for his first career save.

Phillies 8, Marlins 7

In Philadelphia, Jeff Francoeur's two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted the Philadelphia Phillies over the Miami Marlins.

Ryan Howard and Freddy Galvis also homered for the Phillies. Philadelphia ace Cole Hamels was roughed up for the second straight outing, giving up five runs and eight hits in three innings. The left-hander, considered to be a top candidate to be dealt at the trading deadline, gave up a career-worst nine runs in 3 1/3 innings in his last outing.

A.J. Ramos (0-2) walked Carlos Ruiz to lead off the ninth and Francoeur homered to give the Phillies just their second sweep of the season. Hector Neris (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win.

Brewers 6, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, rookie Taylor Jungmann pitched seven strong innings and Khris Davis hit a two-run double as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Pittsburgh Pirates for a sweep.

Jungmann (5-1), added to the Brewers' roster in early June, won his third straight decision. He gave up one run and five hits.

Pittsburgh had won 13 of 16 going into the All-Star break before losing three straight at Miller Park. Jeff Locke (5-6) allowed three runs in 7 1/3 innings.

Pirates shortstop Jordy Mercer was carted off the field after colliding with Carlos Gomez while trying to make a tag in the second inning. Mercer couldn't put pressure on his leg and was helped onto the cart.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Madison Bumgarner and four relievers scattered nine hits and Justin Maxwell homered, helping the San Francisco Giants beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Bumgarner (10-5) pitched five innings for the win, allowing a run and four hits with three strikeouts and a walk in his first start since July 10. The Giants won their sixth straight game and swept their second straight three-game series.

Patrick Corbin (1-2) took the loss on his 26th birthday, and the Diamondbacks have dropped six straight.

Cubs 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Jake Arrieta pitched seven dominant innings and Jorge Soler homered to help the Chicago Cubs beat the Atlanta Braves.

Arrieta (11-5) gave up three hits, three walks and struck out 10, throwing 73 of his 112 pitches for strikes. Over his last six starts, the right-hander is 5-0 with a 0.96 ERA.

Shelby Miller (5-6) struck out eight and allowed four hits, four walks and three runs—one earned—in six innings for the Braves. Atlanta has lost seven of eight.

After James Russell walked Perez with two outs in the ninth, Jason Motte gave up Simmons' RBI single, but he retired pinch-hitter Jonny Gomes on a groundout to end it.

Angels rained out at home for first time since 1995

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—After 20 years and 1,609 consecutive home games, the Los Angeles Angels finally lost another game to rain.

Heavy downpours turned Angel Stadium's outfield into virtual marshlands Sunday night, forcing the postponement of their game against the Boston Red Sox. Los Angeles will host its first doubleheader since 2003 on Monday.

The Big A's grounds crew and drainage system couldn't protect the grass from the remnants of Tropical Storm Dolores, which fell steadily all evening and caused a 2 1/2-hour delay before the postponement. Using brooms and rakes, the crew vainly attempted to push water around the outfield before the Angels finally called their first home rainout since June 16, 1995.

"Unfortunately, I guess you never really know how your drainage system works until you get enough water," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said after the first home rainout of his 16-year tenure in Anaheim. "There's so much standing water in that outfield that just has nowhere to go. It's going to be like that all night, probably be like that (Monday) morning. ... The field was unplayable, with no way to remedy that."

The Angels were rained out at home for just the 16th time in their 55-year franchise history. They hadn't even had a rain delay in a stretch of 359 regular-season home games since April 24, 2011.

According to David Ortiz, the Red Sox are the reason for this unusually rainy season.

"We bring bad weather everywhere," Big Papi said. "Everywhere we go, it rains. That's us. It's not California. It's us. Seriously, wherever we go, we bring rain. Every series we go to, there's some rain going on, so I'm not surprised about this."

The rainout was the first in Anaheim since the California Angels and Chicago White Sox were washed out two decades ago. The Angels have lost just 11 games to rain since the club moved from Dodger Stadium to Orange County in 1966, including a preseason game in 1967.

Despite big lead, Froome on defensive at Tour

VALENCE, France (AP)—Despite his comfortable lead in the Tour de France, Chris Froome heads into the Alps—the last big hurdle between him and victory in Paris—on the defensive.

Not against other contenders for the podium. They are long gone in the British rider's rear-view mirror. But against skeptics created by the cheating of Lance Armstrong and other dopers, and against the legions of fans they betrayed.

For many of those cycling fans, Froome's performances are so good that they must be too good to be true. The leader of Team Sky said one spectator even hurled a cup of urine at him this weekend, shouting "Doper!"

In short, Froome finds himself in the impossible position of being damned by his own success. No matter how many times he insists that he is clean, the words fall on deaf ears. As they would: After all, Armstrong used to say that, too.

Froome understands that. He knows that the yellow jersey he wears has been so soiled by the deceit of those who wore it before him that some of that dirt, deservedly or not, is going to rub off on him, too.

Being doubted, being hauled over of the coals of suspicion day-in, day-out, is the bill that must be paid now for winning a post-Armstrong Tour, especially when you're crushing rivals with apparent ease like the American did on the seven Tour victories that were later stripped from him.

AP

Britain's Chris Froome puts on the overall leader's yellow jersey on the podium of the fifteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 183 kilometers (113.7 miles) with start in Mende and finish in Valence, France, Sunday, July 19, 2015.

Two weeks in, the skepticism is getting under Froome's very thick skin. It's hard to find a more mild-mannered chap in the peloton than the gangly, sometimes awkward, Kenya-born Briton. But as he prepares for the Alps, the ultimate test at this Tour, a hardening in his attitude and tone is unmistakable.

He blames "very irresponsible" media for turning public opinion against him. He started on that theme Saturday after the urine incident and developed it Sunday after safely negotiating Stage 15 that ended with a bunch sprint won by Andre Greipel. It was the German's third victory at this Tour, and it left Froome's large lead intact.

"If people are led to believe that these performances are not legitimate, that's what's going to push them to start booing, and to start punching and spitting and throwing urine on riders," Froome said.

And for those who will still listen, he again repeated that "times have changed" from the Armstrong era.

"This isn't the wild west that it was 10 or 15 years ago," he said. "Of course, there are still going to be riders who take risks in this day and age, but they are the minority.

"It was the other way around 10 or 15 years ago. There is no reason in this day and age for that level of suspicion to continue. There's absolutely no reason."

Still, French police took no chances. Following the urine assault, they posted half a dozen officers around Team Sky's bus at the start of Sunday's 183-kilometer (114-mile) stage from Mende to Valence.

Because of its flat finish, Stage 15 represented the last opportunity for heavy, muscular sprinters to shine before light but strong climbers like Froome take back the spotlight in the Alps in the last week, after a rest day on Tuesday.

Sources: Nuggets trade guard Ty Lawson to Rockets

The Denver Nuggets have reached an agreement to trade guard Ty Lawson to the Houston Rockets, league sources told Yahoo Sports.

Houston will send Kostas Papanikolaou, Pablo Prigioni, Joey Dorsey, Nick Johnson and a lottery-protected 2016 first-round draft pick to Denver, sources said. Along with Lawson, the Nuggets will send a 2017 second-round pick to Houston.

For Denver, the ability to secure a first-round pick in an otherwise barren market for Lawson was something of a coup for general manager TIm Connelly. The Rockets get a borderline All-Star talent with Lawson who could be a difference-maker in getting them over the top in the Western Conference. Obviously, Houston is running the risk that it can help Lawson get his personal life on track again.

After Lawson's second DUI arrest in six months, market interest for him had been severely curbed, league sources said. Nevertheless, the Rockets have had a strong interest with him and were willing to take the risk of working to get Lawson the assistance he needs to become a top-level NBA point guard again. For the Nuggets, the 2016 first-round pick, Papanikolaou and Johnson deliver them back legitimate value on a deal for a player in a rehabilitation facility.

Lawson, 27, entered treatment for alcohol abuse last week after he was arrested on DUI charges in Los Angeles.

The Rockets re-signed Patrick Beverley to a four-year, $25 million deal this summer. After now adding Lawson, they could have one of the best point guard combinations in the NBA.

Part of the urgency of getting a deal done on Sunday was the need to include Prigioni in the trade before Monday's deadline to guarantee his $1.6 million salary for the 2015-16 season. Denver plans to trade or waive Prigioni in the next 24 hours, league sources said. Prigioni will be owed $440,000 if waived on Monday.

Denver's plan is to turn the team over to rookie point guard Emmanuel Mudiay, the seventh overall pick in the June NBA draft, and veteran guard Jameer Nelson.

Lawson was the 18th overall pick in the 2009 NBA draft. He spent his first six seasons with the Nuggets and averaged 15.2 points and 9.6 assists—third-most in the league—in 2014-15. ***(www.yahoo.com)***

SIDEBAR

Clippers sign free-agent forward Josh Smith

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Clippers signed free-agent forward Josh Smith, who helped eliminate them in the playoffs when he was with the Houston Rockets.

He averaged 12.4 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.4 blocks while playing 55 regular-season games with Houston, which picked him up when he was waived by Detroit after 28 games last season.

Smith reportedly signed a one-year deal for the veteran minimum worth $1.5 million.

He helped the Rockets rally from a 3-1 series deficit against the Clippers in the Western Conference semifinals. Smith scored 19 points in Game 6, when the Clippers led by 19 points at home only to lose. He had 15 points in Game 7.

The 29-year-old forward is the 25th player in NBA history with over 10,000 points, 5,000 rebounds, 2,000 assists and 1,000 blocked shots.

The signing was announced Thursday.

HOST

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weightlifting and taekwondo.

Tuvalu also made history when it won its first Pacific Games gold medal thanks to powerlifter Telupe Iosefa in the 120-kilogram event who had a squat lift of 337.5kg, a bench press of 182.5kg, and a deadlift of 285kg for a total of 805kg.

Tuvalu also had two bronze medals in powerlifting behind female lifters Asenate Manoa and Teofoga Edueni Sonya Dabwido, while heavyweight boxer Harry Dave Eti Esela finished third.

The CNMI and Tokelau failed to win any medals with the Commonwealth competing in athletics, beach volleyball, bodybuilding, outrigger canoe, golf, sailing, swimming, and triathlon. Tokelau only sent Sam Iasona in men's squash.

In other news, Beouch Ogumoro Ngirchongor ended the CNMI's campaign when he finished 14th overall in the semifinals of the men's 200-meter run. He finished eighth in his heat clocking in 24.43 seconds.

Fiji's Ratu Banuve Tabakaucoro won the gold with a new Pacific Games record of 20.53 seconds, while Papua New Guinea's Nelson Stone (21.28) and Theo Piniau (21.37) settling for the silver and bronze, respectively.

FRIDAY

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but this year, they are expecting at least 60 to 70.

The period of inspection by the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit started last Monday and also ends on Friday, July 24, the deadline of submission of entries. The inspection is part of the requirement to join the competition.

The competition starts at 6am on both days, Saturday and Sunday, while the time needed for the boat to be at the Smiling Cove Marina for the weigh in is at 6pm.

The awards banquet will be held on Monday, July 27, at 6pm at the Pacific Islands Club.

Last year's 30th edition attracted more than 60 boats composed of 200 fishermen and crew from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and host Saipan.

Guam's Team GORU, captained by Frank Roberto and with his 12-year-old son Aaron as one of the crew, won the overall title after catching a 276-lb marlin.

The father-and-son tandem would most likely return this year to defend their title.

The Top 3 heaviest in weight in Bill Fish, Yellow Fin, Wahoo, Mahi Mahi, and Skipjack game fishes will receive prizes.

Entry forms, rules, and schedule of events are available for pick up at the Marianas Visitors Authority office and at the Fishing Tackle in Susupe.

Registration cost is $150 per boat, which is inclusive of a captain and one crewmember. A $25 fee is charged for each additional angler.

For more information, call Ed Diaz at 6643200 or visit www.sfacnmi.com.

EX-NMI

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Saipan. If I'm not that too busy, I also try to squeeze in playing basketball sometimes back in Palau," said Aguon in an interview during the halftime break of Palau's game against eventual champion Guam last week.

"Guam has a good basketball program and they have the population to support the program. They have been defending well and able to read their opponent's defense too. They have crisp passing on their fastbreak plays," Aguon said on Guam.

The FIBA-Oceania accredited coach also helps in Palau's basketball development but he let's the younger generation of bench tacticians call the shots.

"Your knowledge in basketball should be shared. James Naismith, who invented basketball shared his knowledge and I'm always willing to share what I know," said Aguon.

"I just came here to observe. I rather let them do their thing and I told the new breed of coaches in Palau that they can always talk to me if they need help. Once in a while coaches and sometimes players talk to me and ask for my advice."

Palau U15 coach Logan Ngiriou and assistant Anthony Rudimich, who are both products of their country's U17 youth program, are some of the young coaches that have been helping develop the kids.

"Coaching is hard and I admire coach Logan and Anthony for their dedication and hard work. They have a long-term goal for the youth program," said Aguon.

"All the plays are the same the only difference is how you execute those plays inside the court, how you read your opponent's defense and make the adjustment," he added.

He said that Team Palau sent a young team in the U15 tournament is composed mostly of 12-year-olds.

The team seemed to have enjoyed every bit of their stay here on Saipan and it was evident in last Saturday's banquet where they were seen playing around and swimming at the waters near the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel.

"They are a young team but are willing to learn. I commend these boys for always playing hard and not giving up," added Aguon.

Palau placed third after the weeklong tournament after cruising to a 108-60 drubbing of host team's Marianas Alu'u in the consolation game. The team finished with a 2-2 record after the single elimination round.

Aguon said that teams in the Micronesian region could have played a lot of tune-up matches and joined various tournaments if not for the distance of each island nation.

"Distance and traveling from each country has always been a problem. Micronesia is separated by water. Airfare is not cheap," added Aguon, who was one of the coaches that helped mold rising Philippine Basketball Association rookie Jericho Cruz.

"The coaches are only there to help guide and motivate the players. It is up to the player to take it to the next level. And that's what Jericho did, he worked hard and took it to the next level."

Little Leaguers finish tied with HK in Pool A

But former Crown Colony advances to championship round

The 2015 Little League Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tournament is in its 7th day of the competition and the strong CNMI Little League All-Star team, that's made up of 13 boys and one girl, was able to win two of the four games in the Pool A division.

The Pool A division consists of teams from China, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the CNMI. The CNMI beat China, 15-5, on their first game and two days later beat Saudi Arabia, 12-8. On July 17, the CNMI played against Hong Kong but lost the game by a tight one, a point. Playing against the strong Philippines team the following day, the CNMI team, unfortunately, lost by a very close 2 points.

Consequently, the CNMI tied with Hong Kong for 2nd place in the Pool A games but Hong Kong will be the team advancing to the playoffs due to a technical rule of the tournament.

Giving it their all and starting off the competition strong, the CNMI team should surely be very proud of their performance and especially proud to be representing the CNMI and its people. The team can now celebrate their accomplishments by enjoying the rest of their trip and cheering on for the other Asia-Pacific and Middle East teams still in the tournament until they return back home on Friday, July 29, at 1am.

The CNMI team has already experienced quite a trip so far, with some of the players leaving Saipan and their families for the very first time, having to deal with a delayed flight out of Japan to China for over 24 hours due to the storm this past week, and finally arriving in Guilin, China on July 12 to be welcomed by extreme heat of over a 100 C.

According to one of the players' parent Martha Mendiola, her 13-years-old son, Donaven M. Deleon Guerrero, said that it's very hot in Guilin but that he's having so much fun. The team was also hosted in Guilin by their major sponsor Skywalker Communications Groups managing director Dr. Hu Bo, who personally had one of his Beijing staff fly to Guilin to take the CNMI team, their coaches, and chaperones on a short tour and to also support them while there.

With some time off after the games these next few days, the CNMI team and entourage will hopefully be exploring Guilin more with tours scheduled in the week and also hopefully visiting another mall before they depart back home.

Aside from the monetary donation Dr. Bo from Skywalker proudly presented to the team and their parents before they left to China, Dr. Bo was on top of the team's daily games and activities and most importantly, made sure that they be well cared for and attended to while in Guilin. Dr. Bo is very proud of the Little League All-Star team, their coaches, chaperones and their dedicated parents and hopes the team will be enjoying the rest of their trip and will have a safe and pleasant journey back home.

Dr. Bo would like to congratulate the Major Division Little League All-Star team for their stellar performance at the 2015 Little League Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tournament, expresses his great gratitude to the CNMI community and the other sponsors for their support and also extends his gratitude again to the players, coaches, family members, volunteers, and acting governor Ralph DLG Torres for joining him last July 7 at the Carolinian Utt when he hosted a party for the team before they departed for their competition.

Courtesy of Dr. Bo, his staff in Guilin and the Skywalker Communications Group, more pictures of the CNMI team at the tournament can be accessed by following the "2015 Liberation Day Festival" on Facebook, "CNMILibDay2015" on Instagram and @CNMI2015 on Twitter. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Little League All-Stars poses with Team Philippines at the 2015 Little League Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tournament in Guilin, China.

Team CNMI and Team Philippines exchange pleasantries before their game. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Little League All-Stars listen to acting governor Ralph DLG Torres deliver his pep talk during a gathering at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan earlier this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Little League All-Stars hold up the No. 1 sign during a send-off party earlier this month at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Joining them are acting governor Ralph DLG Torres and Skywalker Communication Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Little League All-Stars assistant coach Mike Cruz congratulates a member of Team Philippines.

Spieth, amateur Dunne eyeing history at St. Andrews

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Sports

Little Leaguers finish tied with HK in Pool A

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Host PNG rules Pacific Games

PACIFIC GAMES
Tongan representatives wear "See You in Tonga 2019" shirts in the closing ceremony of the XV Pacific Games last Saturday at the Sir John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Tonga will host the Games in Nuku'alofa in 2019.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Papua New Guinea earned the bragging rights of clinching the Pacific Games' overall title on home soil when the 15th edition of the quadrennial sporting event ended Saturday at the Sir John Guise Sports Complex.

PNG also turned over the baton to Tonga, which will host the Games in Nuku'alofa in 2019.

The hosts collected 217 medals, 88 of which are gold, with most of its haul coming from medal-rich events in athletics, weightlifting, powerlifting, boxing, and bodybuilding.

Papua New Guinea also capitalized on the course familiarity when it swept all four gold medals at stake in golf, winning the men's and women's team and individual events.

Athletics alone contributed 23 gold medals behind the three-gold haul each of sprinter Toea Wisil and jumper Rellie Kaputin, who established new PNG national records. PNG won a total of 62 medals in track and field events with 21 silvers and 18 bronzes.

Weightlifting added 13-5-3, powerlifting had 8-3-4, boxing chipped in 8-1-2, while boxing collected 5-3-2.

This was the first time since 1991 that PNG ruled the Pacific Games. They beat perennial overall champion New Caledonia with 59-50-56 or 165 toral medals, while Tahiti came in third 39-34-40 for a 113 total.

Fiji (33-34-40), Samoa (17-23-11), Nauru (7-10-5), the Solomon Islands (7-6-15), Tonga (7-1-9), the Cook Islands (6-7-16), Guam (3-3-7), Kiribati (3-1-5), American Samoa (3-1-4), the Federated States of Micronesia (3-1-0), Vanuatu (2-8-12), Norfolk Island (2-3-2), Wallis and Futuna (1-1-6), Tuvalu 1-0-3), Niue (0-1-1), Palau (0-1-1), and the Marshall Islands (0-0-5) complete the medal tally.

Australia—which only competed in rugby 7s, sailing, taekwondo, and weighlifting—came in sixth overall with 17 gold, 19 silver, and 11 bronze, while New Zealand had a 1-9-10 combined haul in

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Friday deadline for fishing derby entries

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Friday would be the deadline for the submission of entries to this year's 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, which is set on July 25 and 26 at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Organizers are reminding interested boat captains to turn in their entry forms on or before July 24 at 4:30pm either at the Marianas Visitors Authority or at the Fishing Tackle in Susupe.

The MVA and the Saipan Fishing Association are hoping that at least 80 to 95 boats would be joining the two-day fishing derby

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament is set for this weekend, July 25 and 26, at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Ex-NMI coach Aguon enjoys view from stands

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A familiar face in the CNMI basketball community was seen at the stands watching the daily games of the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Former CNMI men's national basketball team coach Rufino Aguon, who relocated to Palau a few years ago, accompanied the island nation's Under-15 squad that competed in the regional competition for players in the western division.

Aguon said it is nice to be back on Saipan, which has been his home for a long time. He has been managing their family's parasailing business back in Palau.

"Nice to see old friends in the basketball community here on

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JON PEREZ
Palau coach Logan Ngiriou, front center, and assistant Anthony Rudimich, front left, guided the team to a third place finish in the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15. Palau defeated the Marianas Alu'u, 108-60, in the consolation mach.